PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 537 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

COMPRISING PERIOD
5 December 2011—20 December 2011

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON—THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED

£105
(Two parts not sold separately)

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ISBN 9780215041074

Printed in the UK by The Stationery Office

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5 December 2011

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 5 December 2011

TREASURY

ISA Reinstatement (Failure of Financial Firms)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): I am today announcing the Government's intention to make changes to the ISA rules that will benefit investors whose ISA savings have been affected by the failure or default of a financial firm. This includes ISA investors affected by the collapse of Lehman Brothers.

Under current ISA rules, an individual can pay into their ISA a total amount up to the relevant subscription limit each year. The 2011-12 subscription limit for "adult ISAs" is £10,680, of which £5,340 can be in cash.

Where an ISA is affected by the failure or default of a financial firm, any reinstatement of sums held in the account at that point, or investment of any subsequent compensation received, is currently treated as a new ISA subscription, and therefore counts towards the normal annual limit.

We intend to change the ISA rules to permit investors affected by such a failure or default to make certain ISA investments over and above the normal subscription limits.

We intend that investors who have lost their cash ISA will be permitted to reinstate up to the balance of their account at the time of the firm's failure in a new ISA, outside the normal subscription limits.

Where a stocks and shares ISA has been affected, we intend that the investor will be permitted to invest any compensation (or any similar payment) derived from assets held within their ISA in a stocks and shares ISA, outside the normal subscription limits.

We propose to apply different arrangements for cases in which Lehman Brothers was, at the time of its collapse, the sole counterparty to an ISA product. Affected investors will be permitted to reinstate up to the balance of their ISA at the time of this collapse, outside the normal subscription limits. This is irrespective of whether any compensation has been paid to the investor.

Further details can be found in the HM Revenue and Customs ISA bulletin, published today—a copy of which I have placed in the Library. I have asked HM Revenue and Customs to consult ISA managers and other interested parties on the detailed rules required to implement these changes. I anticipate that draft amending regulations will be made available for consultation in the new year, and that finalised regulations will be laid in spring 2012.

The changes we intend to make will provide a principles-based approach which—together with the Financial Services Compensation Scheme's deposit guarantee scheme and other compensation arrangements—will enable investors whose ISAs are affected by the failure or default of a financial firm to continue to benefit from tax-advantaged savings. They also demonstrate the Government's commitment to ensure that the ISA remains a secure, accessible and tax-advantaged saving product.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Finance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): This Government are determined to support businesses—large and small—to support growth and build a stronger economy. In support of those aims, the Government announced two important business rates measures in the autumn statement. We will:

- double the levels of relief available to small business ratepayers for a further six months on top of the existing two-year scheme; and
- enable business ratepayers to defer payment of 60% of the RPI increase (5.6%) in their 2012-13 business rates bills.

Extending the period for which levels of small business rate relief are doubled means that eligible small businesses will benefit from significant additional reductions in their business rates bills throughout the whole of 2012-13. Approximately half a million businesses in England are expected to benefit, with about a third of a million businesses paying no rates at all for that period.

We have also listened to business concerns about the RPI increase for 2012-13. We are therefore giving businesses the option of spreading the increase over three years. Businesses will be able to defer payment of 60% of the RPI increase in their 2012-13 rates bills until 2013-14 and 2014-15. This will give businesses flexibility to manage their rates bills in the current economic climate and help their cash flow.

Those measures are in addition to the ones that we are already delivering through the Localism Act 2011. Through the Act we are:

- simplifying the process for claiming small business rate relief;
- waiving £175 million of backdated business rates demands levied on businesses, including some in ports;
- giving local authorities wide-ranging, discretionary powers to grant business rates discounts; and
- ensuring that all future business rates supplements projects will have to be put to the ballot so that liable businesses can decide whether to impose the business rate supplement upon themselves.

Taken together, the support provided through these measures will help businesses across the country to prosper.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Single Payment Scheme

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I am pleased to confirm that as at the end of 1 December, the first day of the 2011 single payment scheme (SPS) payment

window, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) had released payments totalling over £1.2 billion (71.6% of the estimated total fund) to some 84,600 English farmers (80.8% of the estimated total of eligible claimants). Payments to farmers will continue to be made as soon as validation of their claims is complete, with the values adjusted to reflect any significant outstanding overpayments from previous years. There remains much to do, but this promising beginning places RPA in a good position to meet its first SPS 2011 performance indicator, namely to pay 78% of the total estimated fund value to a minimum of 86% of eligible claimants by the end of December 2011.

In line with the commitment in my statement of 8 November, *Official Report*, column 12WS, RPA will write in early December to those farmers who are unlikely to be paid during the month in order to both explain the additional work that is required to validate their claim and provide an indicative time scale for how long that type of work can take. While it will not be possible to provide specific dates when payments will be made, I hope the additional information being supplied this year will help farmers with business planning.

I will continue to keep the House informed on the agency's progress.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Foreign Affairs Council

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I attended the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) in Brussels on 1 December.

The FAC was chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Ashton of Upholland. A provisional report of the meeting and all conclusions adopted can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/126518.pdf

The agenda items covered were as follows:

Western Balkans

The discussion focused largely on Serbia, and the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. All expressed concern at implications for the dialogue of recent violence in northern Kosovo. I made clear the UK's strong support of enlargement in general, but on the basis of meeting the required conditionality. I also stressed the importance of Kosovo's EU aspirations. The General Affairs Council will return to this issue on Monday.

On Bosnia and Herzegovina, I emphasised the importance of focusing attention on the need for political progress on the ground, including the formation of a state-level Government.

Iran

Ministers agreed conclusions (see link) setting out the EU's serious and deepening concerns over Iran's nuclear programme following the latest report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which clearly set out possible military dimensions. They also decided to intensify pressure against the nuclear programme by sanctioning another 180 individuals and entities.

I took the opportunity to thank EU Ministers for their support during and since the attack on our Embassy in Tehran. All my counterparts expressed solidarity and the need for a united response, and a number have already recalled their ambassadors for consultations. Ministers agreed to issue the following response from the Council:

"The Council is outraged by the attack on the British Embassy in Tehran and utterly condemns it. It is a violation of the Vienna Convention. It also deplores the decision to expel the British Ambassador from Tehran. The Council considers these actions against the UK as actions against the European Union as a whole. The EU is taking appropriate measures in response."

After the meeting I made the following statement:

"Today, the EU demonstrated clear unity and solidarity with the UK on the outrageous attacks on our Embassy in Tehran. No difficulty in relations can excuse the Iranian regime's complete failure to protect diplomatic staff and property. That is why yesterday I announced the closure of our Embassy in Tehran and the Iranian Embassy in London. This is also why the EU and wider international community have expressed universal condemnation. I welcome the fact that France, Germany, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands have recalled their Ambassadors in Tehran for consultations.

I strongly welcome the EU's decision to intensify pressure on Iran following the IAEA's report by sanctioning another 180 individuals and entities. These include those directly associated with the nuclear programme and entities associated with the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The EU made very clear that it will not bow to Iran's intimidation and bullying tactics. We will not back down and agreed today to work on further sanctions, including in the areas of finance and energy, by the next Council meeting. We want Iran to come to the table and negotiate meaningfully about its nuclear programme. Despite events this week we still want a diplomatic solution."

Iraq: Camp Ashraf

Baroness Ashton briefly raised Camp Ashraf and the interest the European Parliament was taking on this issue. Member states agreed that this was an issue for the UN and Iraq rather than the EU.

Southern Neighbourhood

Over lunch, Ministers had a positive exchange of views about Syria with the Arab League secretary-general, Nabil El Araby. Ministers agreed conclusions (see link above) and further EU sanctions against the Syrian regime. After the meeting I made the following statement:

"I strongly welcome this substantial further package of EU sanctions, targeted on President Assad, his regime and those who support them. This tenth round of sanctions aims to increase pressure on the Syrian regime to stop the continuing violent repression of the Syrian people. EU sanctions stand alongside measures introduced by Turkey yesterday including the freezing of assets belonging to Assad and individuals in the regime, and the Arab League's decision to impose unprecedented sanctions. I welcome these moves which send a clear message that the Syrian regime's actions have left it isolated.

EU sanctions are part of a broad international response to the horrific abuses perpetrated by a regime that has lost legitimacy. The UN Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry report, issued on 21 November, highlighted the systematic and wide ranging nature of these abuses including through compelling testimony from many of those who have suffered at the hands of the Syrian regime. The UK worked closely with international and regional partners to secure a third UN Human Rights Council special session on Syria, on Friday 2 December.

The UK continues to support the Arab League's efforts to bring an immediate end to the violence and supports the work of Syrian oppositionists towards realising the aspirations of the Syrian people for freedom, dignity and a new political system."

On Egypt, Ministers agreed conclusions (see link above) welcoming the peaceful start to elections but expressing serious concern at the recent violence and calling for a swift transfer to civilian government.

Ministers agreed conclusions on developments in the Southern Neighbourhood and the EU's response to the Arab spring, including the need for an offer of market access to Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco (see link above). The Council also acknowledged through Conclusions (see link above) the Polish presidency's initiative to create a European Endowment for Democracy.

Middle East Peace Process

Ministers also had a short exchange of views with the Arab League secretary-general about the latest developments in the middle east peace process.

Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

Ministers agreed a useful package of CSDP measures (see link above) focused on improving the EU's contribution to international security on the ground. They agreed to prepare for a small, focused and carefully calibrated civilian CSDP mission in the Sahel, focusing on policing, security, infrastructure development and regional training; and affirmed the EU's readiness to assist the new Libyan authorities if requested. In line with the UK's priorities in the Horn of Africa, Ministers agreed to plan for a new mission to help countries in the region improve their own civil maritime security.

These new operations fit well with our vision of CSDP, bringing together a range of security tools for practical effect in areas where NATO, which remains the cornerstone of our security, would not be engaged. In order to improve the coherence of this effect in the Horn of Africa, Ministers agreed to consider activating on a temporary ad hoc basis the existing EU Operations Centre, designed for low-intensity small-scale civilian or civil-military missions that do not require a military headquarters. This could bring together the EU's work to strengthen regional maritime capacities in Somalia and the wider Horn of Africa region with its existing military training for Somali security forces, currently run through the EU's planning staffs. The EU's naval counter-piracy mission Atalanta will continue to be run from the UK's military operational headquarters at Northwood. This further demonstrates that the EU has all the structures it needs for effective crisis management and does not require new, costly and duplicative institutions such as a permanent EU operational military headquarters - something this Government will never agree to. Council agreed that, without prejudice to the treaties, any future decisions on planning and conducting EU operations will be taken on the basis of unanimity and inclusiveness.

Ministers also highlighted the importance of improving Europe's civilian and military capabilities, and of strengthening the EU's partnerships with NATO, the UN and others. We hope that the focus of debate on CSDP will now shift from institutions to practical outcomes, effectiveness and real missions that actually make a difference in the world and can improve our own security and that of other countries within the EU and beyond.

Public Records (Colonial Documents)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): Further to the statements to the House by the Foreign Secretary on 5 May, *Official Report*, column 24WS and 30 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 66WS, I wish to inform the House of our plans to make available to the public, over the next two years, the large collection of colonial administration files currently held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

The timetable for transfer of these files to the National Archives (TNA), which has been approved by Professor Badger, the independent reviewer appointed by the Foreign Secretary, follows our undertaking to move rapidly to put these papers into the public domain.

In keeping with this Government's commitment to transparency and openness, the entire collection of migrated files will be transferred to TNA. None of the papers will be destroyed. Redactions will be kept to an absolute minimum, for example in order to comply with the Data Protection Act. We expect that 99% of the material will be available for the public to read.

The files will be reviewed and transferred in alphabetical order of the colonial territory concerned with the exception of Kenya, Cyprus, British India Ocean Territory (BIOT) and Malaya, which will be prioritised because there has been particular interest. The first batch of files, representing around 16% of the total collection, is expected to be available for public view at TNA in April 2012. This will include material from Aden, Anguilla, Bahamas, Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Brunei as well as the BIOT and Malaya files and the first tranche of papers from Kenya and Cyprus. Given the volume of material from Kenya and Cyprus, the remaining files will be reviewed and transferred in batches over the following months.

The aim is to have all the papers transferred before the end of 2013. We will be publishing a more detailed timetable on the FCO's website.

Abdelbaset al-Megrahi

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Alistair Burt): My noble Friend the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the right hon. Lord Howell of Guildford, has made the following written ministerial statement:

On 23 November, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 1051, I said that part of the Dumfries and Galloway constabulary would embrace the question of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi's condition and that we were awaiting the precise details of his health from the Libyan Government.

I would like to clarify that the Government have not asked the Libyan Government to provide information about Mr al-Megrahi's health. The terms of Mr al-Megrahi's release from prison on licence specify that he has to comply with a number of conditions set by the Scottish Ministers. These conditions include the submission of a monthly medical report to East Renfrewshire council. As I said on 23 November, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have passed on a request from the devolved Administration to the Libyan chargé d'affaires in London asking the Libyan authorities to assist in ensuring that the supervision arrangements of Megrahi's licence are observed.

The Dumfries and Galloway constabulary's investigation concerns the involvement of others, with Mr al-Megrahi, in the Lockerbie bombing. The Government will continue to support the police in following any new leads, including any new information that may come to light concerning Mr al-Megrahi.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Missing Children and Adults

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): Safeguarding vulnerable members of our society is a key priority for this Government and I am writing to inform the House that we have today published a cross-Government missing children and adults strategy which seeks to ensure we are doing all we can to safeguard missing children and adults and to support their families. A copy of the strategy has been placed in the House Library.

There are an estimated 360,000 reports of people going missing in the UK each year amounting to approximately 200,000 missing people. Children and young people make up approximately two thirds of the missing reports and account for an estimated 140,000 children who go missing every year in the UK. Although the vast majority of people who go missing return or are found quickly, many vulnerable children and adults suffer harm and exploitation while missing and some never return.

Identifying and ensuring the safest return possible for these vulnerable children and adults is a key part of the police service's child protection and wider safeguarding role. However, tackling missing persons issues requires a multi-agency response and co-ordination across a range of policies and operational partners including the police, local authorities and the health sector.

Following the recent all-party parliamentary group (APPG) inquiry into support for families of missing people in July 2011, I accepted the overarching recommendation that there should be a cross-Government outcomes policy framework for missing persons. I also accepted the principles behind the inquiry recommendations, including that we can and should do better in the support we provide to families and announced that I would lead development of a cross-cutting strategy on missing children and adults.

Evidence from the APPG inquiry and consultation with stakeholders and key delivery partners showed that, although we have the right policies and responsibilities in place to tackle this issue, agencies are not always clear about these roles and responsibilities, nor do they always recognise the risks of harm that vulnerable children and adults face when missing.

With this in mind, the strategy I have published today provides a framework in which we can all work to collectively deliver the best protection possible for missing children, adults and their families. It includes a small number of strategic objectives which we believe provide the right foundations for any effective local strategy and provides a framework for local areas to put in place their own arrangements. I believe this strategy provides a core framework against which local agencies with a role in tackling this important issue can review the strategy they have in place with their local partners—and consider whether they can and should be doing more.

With the right priority and focus on this issue, and by ensuring we are all working together in the most effective way possible, I believe this strategy will help support the step change in delivery needed at a local level to ensure we provide vulnerable missing children and adults and their families with the help, protection and support they need.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Independent Living Fund

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): The independent living fund (ILF) operates as an executive non-departmental public body of the Department for Work and Pensions and provides discretionary cash payments to disabled people to support independent living.

In a written statement on 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 85WS, I announced that, having reviewed the role of the ILF, the fund would remain closed permanently to new applications, but that the care and support packages of current users would be protected until the end of this Parliament.

That decision followed an independent review of the ILF in 2007 which recommended reform to ensure long-term sustainability, and reflected a commitment to ensure that the care and support needs of all disabled people are delivered equitably as part of local authorities' broader independent living strategies in line with local priorities and accountability.

We committed to a formal consultation in 2011 on how existing users would be supported in the future. That consultation should be placed in the wider context of the reform of the care and support system and will therefore now take place in spring 2012, alongside the publication of the planned White Paper on the future of care and support in England.

DWP remains committed to working with the Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government on options for the future support for users in Scotland and Wales.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 6 December 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station

The Attorney-General (Mr Dominic Grieve): On 13 July 2011 a written ministerial statement was presented to both Houses setting out the decision by Keir Starmer QC, to ask the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and retired Court of Appeal judge, Sir Christopher Rose, to conduct an independent inquiry following concerns about the non-disclosure of material relating to the activities of an undercover police officer and suggestions that the CPS had suppressed evidence in relation to the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station protest cases.

The Director of Public Prosecutions committed to making public the findings of the independent inquiry and a copy of Sir Christopher Rose's report has today been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The report is also available online at www.cps.gov.uk.

Sir Christopher has concluded that although there were individual failings, there was no deliberate or dishonest withholding of information by the prosecution. More detailed conclusions can be found within the report.

Sir Christopher has recommended that more explicit guidance be included in the prosecution team disclosure manual, a recommendation which the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have agreed to adopt. In addition and in light of the report, the Director of Public Prosecutions has decided that specific training should be delivered to all senior lawyers in the CPS casework divisions and complex casework units about the proper handling of cases involving undercover officers. All chief Crown prosecutors and any staff who chair CPS case management panels should undergo the same training.

Sir Christopher worked in tandem with the IPCC in this matter sharing all relevant information. Sir Christopher's inquiry focused on the CPS' handling of the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station protests. The IPCC are conducting their own inquiry which will be published in due course.

TREASURY

Anti-avoidance Regulations

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): The Government are determined to reduce tax avoidance in order to protect the Exchequer, which provides funding for public services, and maintain fairness for the taxpayer.

Accordingly, the Government are announcing today that regulations have been laid to clarify the time at which companies with foreign currency loan relationships or derivative contracts and matched foreign currency shares, ships or aircraft come within the provisions of the Loan Relationships and Derivative Contracts (Disregard and Bringing into Account of Profits and Losses) Regulations 2004 (the disregard regulations).

These regulations put beyond doubt that companies can only defer foreign exchange gains and losses under the disregard regulations from the date that they have a foreign currency loan relationship or derivative contract which is matched with shares, ships or aircraft. The regulations will apply to shares, ships or aircraft which are matched on or after 6 December 2011.

The clarification follows disclosure of an avoidance scheme in which companies claim to permanently defer foreign exchange gains on foreign currency loan relationships and derivative contracts by retrospectively designating the loan relationship as a hedge of newly acquired foreign currency share capital. The regulations will prevent future avoidance in this area and protect significant amounts of revenue.

Further details have today been published on HMRC's website, together with the regulations, technical note and tax information and impact note.

Bank Remuneration Disclosures

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Government have today launched a consultation on a mandatory requirement for the largest UK banks and foreign banks operating in the UK to publish the details of the level and composition of remuneration of their eight highest-paid senior executive officers. The first disclosures would be made in 2012, in respect of the 2011 financial year.

In February 2011, the Government announced an accord between the UK Government and major UK banks under the name "Project Merlin". As part of this announcement, the Government committed to consulting on extending the remuneration disclosures of the highest-paid non-board executives made under Project Merlin to major UK banks from 2012 onwards.

Remuneration practices in the financial services sector have incentivised excessive risk-taking in some cases, contributing to the severity of the financial crisis. While a number of UK, international and European initiatives have led to improvements in the alignment of risk and reward in the financial services sector, more detailed remuneration disclosures for the highest-paid senior executives at the largest firms will provide better oversight of incentives. This information will encourage improved shareholder governance and enhance public scrutiny, which, in turn, is expected to facilitate better decision making by boards in relation to senior executive pay.

These proposals have been designed to minimise potential costs and external impacts, including the impact on privacy. A full explanation of the regulatory changes and draft implementing provisions is set out in the consultation document and impact assessment. The consultation will be published on the HM Treasury website, and the consultation period is scheduled to end on 14 February 2012.

Following consideration of responses to this consultation, the Government will take a decision on whether amendments to the draft legislation are required, before publishing a summary of responses document and laying final regulations before Parliament during summer 2012.

Draft Legislation for Finance Bill 2012 and Tax Policy Update

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): Following Budget 2011, the Government consulted on a number of tax policies. Today the Government are publishing the responses to these consultations alongside draft clauses for legislation to be included in Finance Bill 2012. This fulfils our objective to confirm the majority of intended tax changes at least three months ahead of publication.

The draft clauses will be open to technical consultation until 10 February 2012.

Details of the clauses published today are set out in the overview of draft legislation document, which also includes tax information and impact notes for each measure. All publications will be available on the HMT and HMRC websites.

The Government are making additional changes to tax policy. Legislation will be introduced in the Finance Bill 2012 to:

provide that visiting EU forces and their civilian staff receive the tax treatment to which they are entitled under the EU status of forces agreement. Similar treatment already applies to visiting North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) forces.

exempt from income tax payments of the continuity of education allowance to service personnel in the armed forces.

ensure that individuals provided with security enhanced cars are not unfairly impacted by the abolition of the £80,000 cap on the cash equivalent of the benefit on company cars.

exempt from UK taxation, money earned by non-resident footballers and team officials in relation to the Champions League final in 2013, which will be held at Wembley.

ensure that existing tax rules dealing with tax adjustments arising on a change in accounting policy continue to apply following the expected changes to UK generally accepted accounting practice in 2012. The legislation will apply to changes in accounting policy where accounts are prepared after 1 January 2012.

introduce a lower rate of 20% of the full rates of climate change levy for supplies of taxable commodities used in the recycling of steel and aluminium, from 1 April 2012.

make consequential amendments to stamp duty land tax reliefs arising from provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill.

make further changes to the capital allowances anti-avoidance rules that apply to transactions involving plant or machinery following the announcement on 12 August 2011 to close down a loophole in the legislation.

take a power to modify the stamp duty land tax disclosure of tax avoidance schemes regime to facilitate both the removal of the grandfathering rules for certain avoidance schemes using the sub-sale rules and the removal of the property valuation thresholds for disclosure.

provide double taxation relief for remote gaming duty, general betting duty and pool betting duty following the announcement on 18 July 2011 of a review of remote gambling taxation.

amend the bank levy to ensure that the liabilities of joint ventures are correctly aggregated into a foreign banking group or a relevant non banking group's chargeable equity and liabilities; to ensure that double taxation relief can be restricted where the amount of a foreign bank levy subsequently is reduced; and to amend the powers allowing the rules for the exchange of information with foreign authorities to work as intended. The changes to the rules on joint ventures will have effect for chargeable periods ending on or after 1 January 2012.

The Government will propose amendments in Finance Bill 2013 to two pieces of legislation designed to protect the UK tax base. These are contained in sections 714 to 751 of the Income Tax Act 2007 (transfer of assets abroad) and section 13 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 (gains on assets held by foreign companies closely controlled by UK participators). A further announcement will be made around Budget 2012 and the Government intend to publish a consultation including draft legislation at that time.

The Government also announce the withdrawal of five extra statutory concessions and a consultation on supplementary legislation for two concessions. The withdrawals will have effect from the beginning of the 2013-14 tax year. Further details are available on the HMRC website.

The Government have also tabled two further written statements today which:

set out legislation for Finance Bill 2012 which has effect from today; and

provide further details on non-domicile taxation and the statutory residence test.

Draft Legislation for Finance Bill 2012: Measures with Immediate Effect

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): This Government are committed to creating a fair tax system and will take the necessary steps to prevent the loss of tax revenues.

The Government are announcing today measures which will protect the Exchequer and maintain fairness in the tax system. The legislation for these measures will have effect from today and will be included in Finance Bill 2012.

The protocol on announcements made outside scheduled fiscal events, published at Budget 2011, sets out the criteria the Government will observe when changing legislation with immediate effect. The Government are acting in accordance with the protocol in announcing the following changes to legislation.

Lloyd's stop-loss insurance

Legislation will be introduced to ensure that all premiums payable by corporate members of Lloyd's in respect of member-level stop-loss reinsurance shall be deducted for tax purposes in the same period in which the profits to which they relate are recognised. The legislation will apply to all premiums paid in respect of policies taken out on or after 6 December 2011 to remove the benefit of the current mismatch without further delay.

Scope of the supplementary charge

The Government are introducing legislation, taking effect from 6 December 2011, to prevent a potential loss of tax by ensuring that the supplementary charge applies

to ring-fence chargeable gains and to confirm that the scope of the supplementary charge matches that of ring-fence corporation tax.

Section 171a of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 will be amended to provide that an election cannot be made to transfer a ring fence chargeable gain from a company carrying on a ring fence trade to a company not carrying on a ring fence trade.

Section 330 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 will be amended to put beyond doubt that supplementary charge is charged by reference to all of the ring fence profits of a company that are chargeable to corporation tax; that is by reference to its chargeable gains in addition to the trading profits arising to the company as a result of its ring fence trade.

Further details have today been published on HMRC's website, together with the proposed draft legislation and tax information and impact notes.

The Government have also tabled two further written statements today which:

set out legislation for Finance Bill 2012 and updates on tax policy; and

provide further details on non-domicile taxation and the statutory residence test.

Non-Domicile Taxation and Statutory Residence Test

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): At Budget 2011, the Government announced a package of reforms to the taxation of non-domiciled individuals and their intention to introduce a statutory definition of tax residence.

Following consultation, the core reforms to non-domicile taxation will be included in Finance Bill 2012 as announced and draft legislation is published today. This comprises the introduction of a higher £50,000 annual charge, a new relief to encourage business investment and technical simplifications to some aspects of the existing non-domicile rules.

The legislation of Statement of Practice 1/09, which is one of the simplifications to the existing non-domicile rules, will be taken forward in Finance Bill 2013 to take effect from April 2013.

The consultation on tax residence raised a number of detailed issues which will require careful consideration to ensure the legislation achieves its important aim of providing certainty for individuals and businesses. The Government will therefore legislate the statutory residence test in Finance Bill 2013 to take effect from April 2013 rather than April 2012. It will introduce any reforms to ordinary residence at the same time. This will give time to consult thoroughly on the detail of these changes well in advance of implementation.

The Government are committed to the form of the statutory residence test outlined in consultation. They will make a further announcement around Budget 2012 when it will publish their response to the recent consultation together with a further consultation on policy detail and draft legislation.

This will ensure that the full package of measures announced at Budget 2011 will be implemented in a two-step programme that will be completed in Finance Bill 2013. The Government remain committed to making no further substantive changes to these rules for the remainder of this Parliament.

The Government have also tabled two further written statements today which:

set out legislation for Finance Bill 2012 and updates on tax policy; and

set out legislation for Finance Bill 2012 which has effect from today.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Government Olympic Executive Quarterly Report, December 2011

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics (Hugh Robertson): I am publishing today the Government Olympic Executive's Quarterly Report—"London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Quarterly Report December 2011". This report explains the latest budget position as at 30 September 2011, and outlines some of the investments which are being made to capitalise on the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

The anticipated final cost (AFC) of the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) construction and infrastructure programme is £6.856 billion. This is a decrease of £394 million since July—including £333 million that the ODA has returned to DCMS for transformation work to be carried out by the Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC), and savings of £61 million. On a like-for-like basis with previous reports, which included the transformation work in ODA's programme, the ODA's AFC stands at £7.189 billion.

The ODA has achieved £42 million of savings in the quarter, taking the total amount of savings achieved since the November 2007 baseline to over £910 million. Construction of the venues and infrastructure for the games is 92% complete with the majority of venues on the Olympic park now complete. Contracts for the sale of the Olympic village to Delancey/Qatari Diar (QDD) joint venture have been exchanged generating a net benefit of £14 million above the previous forecast.

With just over eight months to go until the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games, we are in a strong position and the list of completed venues now includes the velodrome (nominated for the RIBA Stirling Prize 2011), the main stadium, the handball arena, the basketball arena, the aquatics centre and the international broadcast centre (IBC). During the "One Year to Go" celebrations at the end of July, the completed aquatics centre was unveiled to the public and diver Tom Daly marked the occasion by taking the first official dive into the pool.

The consistent and careful management of the London 2012 programme has enabled us to fund additional security requirements, and invest in projects to help drive economic growth and tourism as a result of the games, all while staying within the £9.3 billion public sector funding package (PSFP).

The Home Office and LOCOG have undertaken detailed analysis of the venue security staff that will be needed across the UK across a range of London 2012 venues next summer. Our priority is to deliver a safe and secure games therefore we have allocated an additional £271 million for venue security. This figure includes the recruitment

and training of 23,700 venue security personnel based on more than 100 competition and non-competition venues across the UK.

We are confident that the core safety and security programme can be delivered within the £475million announced in December 2010's spending review settlement. In order to test the effectiveness, resilience and decision-making capability of key games-time structures and processes, we have also apportioned a further £2.8 million for games-time command, co-ordination and communication testing.

Historically, the opening and closing ceremonies are some of the most memorable and enduring spectacles from every Olympic and Paralympic games. They represent a unique opportunity to showcase the creative talent of the host nation to a global audience of billions. The four ceremonies will have an equivalent airtime value estimated at between £2 billion and £5 billion. To ensure that the UK capitalises on this opportunity, the Government have made available up to £41 million to LOCOG (£7 million of which is Government-held contingency) to support the delivery of the four Olympic and Paralympic ceremonies.

The Government have also allocated £25 million from the PSFP for domestic and international campaigns to drive economic benefits, including tourism, from the games. The "GREAT" campaign launched by the Prime Minister in the autumn and led by VisitBritain, will promote the UK as a destination for tourism and inward investment in key overseas markets. Run in partnership with UKTI, FCO and British Council we estimate that this campaign will attract an extra 800,000 visitors, generating around £400 million of additional spend per annum, as well as attracting £1 billion worth of additional trade and investment. The 70-day Olympic torch relay is a unique opportunity for each of our regions to showcase their culture and heritage to a national audience. Funding of up to £4 million has been released so that we can use the tour to increase domestic tourism across the UK. Through the domestic tourism campaign, it is estimated that 5.3 million additional short break nights will be generated by 2015, creating around £480 million of additional consumer spending.

I would like to commend this report to the members of both Houses and thank them for their continued interest in and support for the London 2012 games.

Copies of the Quarterly Report December 2011 are available online at: www.culture.gov.uk and will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

EU Ban (Keeping of Hens in Conventional Cages)

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I know many members of the House have been following progress on the implementation of the EU-wide ban on the keeping of hens in conventional cages. I, therefore, want to take this opportunity to update the House and explain how the ban will be enforced by DEFRA and the devolved Administrations.

Council Directive 1999/74/EC, which lays down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens, bans the keeping of hens in conventional ("battery") cages from 1 January 2012. This represents one of the most significant welfare advances across the EU and DEFRA, along with the devolved Administrations, has been working hard to see it effectively implemented across the European Union.

The Government acknowledge the sterling job that the UK egg industry has done in preparing for the ban and the very big investment made in converting to other production systems, demonstrating its commitment to animal welfare, which is also a serious consideration for many consumers when purchasing food. The vast majority of UK producers will be compliant by 1 January 2012.

It is a different story across Europe. 13 of the 27 member states have said that they will not be ready. There could be about 50 million hens that will still be in conventional cages across the EU in unacceptable conditions on 1 January 2012.

We want to protect our producers who have invested some £400 million in converting out of conventional cages, equivalent to spending £25 per hen housed. To this end, I have met with the Commission a number of times over the last year in an attempt to find a solution. A reliance on infraction proceedings against non-compliant member states will not be enough to deal with the negative impact that non-compliance would cause and that additional enforcement measures would need to be put in place to prevent market disturbance. In September, the Secretary of State wrote jointly with nine other concerned member states to the European Commission urging them to act quickly. At the October Agriculture Council, the Commission indicated that despite their efforts an intra-Community trade ban was not legally possible.

The Commission then turned to looking for a robust enforcement approach that avoids large numbers of producers having to close down their operations and the destruction of millions of hens and non-compliant eggs, while at the same time protecting all those producers who have complied with the ban and implemented a flagship animal welfare issue. While I never wished to see the 2012 deadline delayed, I was willing to explore the idea of a practical solution which would give some protection to UK and other compliant producers, by ensuring eggs from illegal cages did not leave the country of origin.

There was a meeting at official level on 29 November, where the Commission said that the early stages of pre-infraction procedures had already begun with non-compliant member states. The idea of a gentleman's agreement will not be progressed, but the Commission has asked for action plans from all non-compliant member states, many of whom supported keeping non-compliant eggs within national borders. The Commission's Food and Veterinary Office missions will be targeted at the beginning of 2012 at non-compliant member states and all member states have been asked to submit lists of compliant and non-compliant producers.

We have decided that the UK enforcement strategy to deal with non-compliance with the conventional cage ban will be robust.

The Government have thoroughly investigated the possibility of taking unilateral action and bringing in a UK ban on all imports of egg and egg products which

have been produced in conventional cages in other member states. However, given the very significant legal and financial implications of introducing such a ban, coupled with practical difficulties in enforcing it, it is not a realistic option.

Instead, DEFRA and the devolved Administrations will be adopting the most robust enforcement approach available to us within the legal constraints that exist. Risk-based surveillance to ensure imported shell eggs from other member states have been produced in compliance with the cage ban will be in place from 1 January. The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) is the body responsible for enforcing the conventional cage ban in Great Britain. Its knowledge of the industry and those importing eggs, coupled with an understanding of a member state's level of compliance will define the level of surveillance.

AHVLA surveillance on imports of shell eggs will use ultraviolet light analysis to identify batches of caged eggs that are not from an enriched cage environment. This technique has successfully been used to date to identify caged eggs within batches described as being produced in alternative systems, for example, free-range. It has not up until now been used to specifically identify different types of caged egg production, but we have had the technique independently validated and it can be done. This technique will be used as a marker to prompt further action. Once suspected non-compliant shell eggs are identified, AHVLA will contact the Competent Authority in the originating member state and ask for confirmation of the system of production.

If they are found to be from an illegal system, they will be prevented from being marketed as class A eggs and would be sent for processing (i.e. be treated as class B eggs)—if indeed any UK processors would accept them. If the eggs were found to be from a compliant system, the eggs would be released.

We believe this scrutiny will mean importers will make greater efforts to ensure the source and integrity of the eggs they import, given the economic disadvantage that would follow if they were importing illegally produced eggs. We have no wish to hinder legal trade or disadvantage compliant producers wherever they are in Europe and we are quite happy to use member states' own lists of compliant producers, which AHVLA can check against and which will mean that these consignments are less likely to be held up.

However, the import of processed egg, principally in liquid or powdered form, is less easy to trace as the supply chain is less transparent and more challenging to audit. Because of a loophole in the egg marketing regulations, we cannot prohibit the marketing of any eggs produced in conventional cages from 1 January 2012 which are sent to processing (whether sent as ungraded or class B), nor can we prohibit the use of any products made from such eggs. We will continue to press in Europe to get this loophole closed, but until then we are taking steps to establish as much compliance as is possible with the conventional cage ban for egg products by working closely with the food industry.

An essential part of the UK's enforcement strategy is to ensure that retailers, egg processors, food manufacturers and the food service industry have stringent traceability tests in place to ensure that they are not using non-compliant eggs from either the UK or from other member states. Once again, our industry has risen to that challenge.

Retailers, food manufacturers, food service companies and processors have come out publically in support of UK egg producers. The British Retail Consortium has guaranteed that conventional caged eggs will not be bought by the major retailers or used as ingredients in their own brand products. They have put in place stringent traceability tests to ensure that they will not be buying conventional caged eggs. Retailers that have made this guarantee are Marks and Spencer, Morrisons, Asda, J Sainsbury, Co-operative Group, Tesco, Waitrose, Iceland Foods, Greggs, Starbucks and McDonald's. Many food manufacturers and food service companies have also given a similar guarantee for eggs or egg products. They include: Premier Foods plc, Marlow Foods Ltd, United Biscuits, Ferrero UK, Apetito, Allied Mills, Allied Bakeries, Burton's Biscuit Company, Speedibake, Dairy Crest, The Silver Spoon Company, Westmill Foods, Compass, Baxter Storey, and Sodexo. The following egg processors have also signed up to not sourcing conventional caged eggs from 1 January 2012: Manton's, Noble Foods, Framptons, Fridays, Oaklands Farm Eggs, Lowrie Foods, and the UK Egg Centre. We are in discussion with others who we hope to be able to add to this list.

The UK is 82% self-sufficient in egg and egg products, with the remaining 18% coming from other member states. Of the 18% of egg and egg products being imported, approximately 50% will be imported as shell egg and 50% imported as egg product (liquid or powder). The fact that we have managed to get the majority of UK processors on board, reduces the likelihood of non-compliant egg products being imported and demonstrates that full traceability is possible and should not be used as a justification by others to say that it is not.

Ultimately, it will be for the Competent Authority in each member state to take responsibility at source for ensuring that their producers no longer keep hens in conventional cages post 1 January 2012. If a retailer purchased eggs from a conventional cage that are marked incorrectly as class A, without exercising appropriate due diligence, they would be committing a marketing offence. The caterer, processor or product manufacturer might also be guilty of aiding and abetting such an offence if they knowingly purchased eggs purporting to be class A which derive from illegal cages.

The Government will also do their bit to protect compliant producers. We will be making necessary changes to the Government Buying Standards mandatory criteria to ensure that eggs produced in conventional cages, are not used in any form whether this is fresh, powdered or liquid.

Given our commitment to support compliant producers, we will also be taking tough action against any UK producers found to have laying hens in conventional cages after 1 January 2012. The AHVLA have visited the vast majority of known cage producers to remind them of the need to comply with the conventional cage ban when it comes into force at the end of the year and at the same time find out producers' intentions, as to whether they will cease production or convert to alternative systems. Similar action has also been taken by Scottish Government officials and officials in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland. This has helped to build a picture of where remaining non-compliance may be found and thus where risk based inspections should be targeted in the UK from

1 January 2012. All producers targeted by the intelligence led risk analysis will be visited at the beginning of next year. If contraventions are found at the time of the visit, they will be dealt with using provisions within the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007, which implements Council Directive 99/74/EC, and the egg marketing regulations. A compliance notice will be issued immediately to ensure that conventional caged eggs do not go into the class A market, preventing the producer from benefiting from the production of illegally produced eggs and prosecution will be considered. Similar action will be taken as appropriate in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

We will be monitoring the situation carefully in the new year and will not hesitate to raise matters in Europe if any issues arise. I, together with my ministerial colleagues in the devolved Administrations, intend to continue urging the Commission to learn lessons from this experience with the conventional cage ban to avoid the same kind of problems occurring next year, leading up to the EU ban on the use of sow stalls on 1 January 2013.

HOME DEPARTMENT

The Draft Immigration (Biometric Registration) Regulations 2012

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The Government are today laying before the House the draft Immigration (Biometric Registration) Regulations 2012. These will complete the roll-out of biometric immigration documents, known as biometric residence permits (BRPs), to all in-country categories of foreign nationals applying to extend their stay in the UK for over six months from 29 February 2012, including settlement, recognised refugees and protection categories.

This is required for the UK to comply with EU regulations (European Council Regulation (EC) No. 1030/2002 of 13 June 2002 Regulation, amended in April 2008 by Council Regulation (EC) No. 380/2008) that the UK opted in to and which lay down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals. The UK Border Agency has been rolling out biometric immigration documents, known as biometric residence permits, by immigration category since November 2008.

We have made significant progress since the roll-out of biometric residence permits began in September 2008 and will complete the in-country roll-out three months before the EU deadline.

The roll-out to overseas applicants coming to the UK for more than six months and to in-country applications made prior to a biometric registration requirement needs significant infrastructure and system changes. No major technical changes are to be made to systems during the accreditation period of the games which runs from 30 March 2012 to 8 November 2012, to ensure that the integrity and robustness of our systems is maintained during this critical time.

For the overseas roll-out of biometric permits, we will return to Parliament with our plans, including policy proposals, for the final stage of the roll-out which will be after the accreditation period of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. To manage the changes required to roll out to any migrant who applied in-country before a requirement to apply for a biometric residence permit, we will continue to issue a sticker (vignette) as evidence of leave until 1 December 2012. Any migrant granted leave of more than six months from this date will be required by these regulations to apply for a biometric residence permit if they have not done so already.

To manage the increased volumes of applicants registering their fingerprints and digital facial image, I am pleased to announce that the UK Border Agency has awarded the contract for delivering third-party enrolment to the Post Office Ltd.

Biometric residence permits simplify the checks that the UK Border Agency, employers and public service providers need to undertake to confirm immigration status and eligibility to entitlements in the UK. Our plans to introduce an automated online employers checking service for biometric residence permits from spring next year will make it even easier for employers to conduct quick and easy real-time checks on the validity of the document.

I can confirm that we are publishing the impact assessment for the changes on the UK Border Agency website and I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the House Library.

Criminal Records Regime Review (Government Response)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): I have today placed in the Library of the House the report by Mrs Sunita Mason, the independent adviser for criminality information management, of phase 2 of her review of the criminal records regime, as well as the Government's formal response to both phases of that review.

I published Mrs Mason's phase 1 report on 11 February, alongside the Protection of Freedoms Bill. The Bill includes a number of proposals which reflect recommendations from that first report and which will improve the proportionality and efficiency of the employment vetting systems centring on the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). I am pleased to publish today Mrs Mason's phase 2 report, which addresses wider criminal records issues such as definition, management and international exchange. I am grateful to Mrs Mason for her contribution to this important agenda, which encompasses two central objectives for the Government—rebalancing civil liberties where necessary and maintaining effective, efficient and affordable public protection arrangements.

The Government accept the large majority of Mrs Mason's recommendations, either unconditionally or in principle. Full details are in the response document.

The significant improvements to the Criminal Record Bureau's processes which the Government have brought forward in the Protection of Freedoms Bill will, I believe, substantially reduce the cost and administrative burdens involved in pursuing necessary employment checks. And as such, they are also supportive of other key Government priorities such as the growth agenda and the employment law review. They will also ensure greater protection of applicants' rights as only relevant and accurate personal

information will ever be disclosed by the police. For example, we are giving the applicant the opportunity under these revised CRB processes to review and, if appropriate, dispute any information held about them by the police prior to it being disclosed to an employer. We have also included a provision to make the CRB process less burdensome on all concerned by introducing a new, online status checking capability that will in effect mean individuals can reuse their certificates for different employers across the same work force and so will no longer need to apply for a new certificate every time they want to take up a new role. This will have a positive impact on business, making it significantly easier for employers to take on staff in relevant sectors.

We do not accept Mrs Mason's recommendation to scale back significantly eligibility for criminal records checks. The Protection of Freedoms Bill is already being used to reduce very substantially the scope of "regulated activity" from which people can be barred. Against that background we think it is important to retain the capacity to apply for criminal records checks in relation to a broader set of sensitive roles.

We accept in principle Mrs Mason's recommendation that there should be a clear time scale for the police to make decisions on whether there is relevant information that should be disclosed on an enhanced criminal record certificate. However, we do not accept that the certificate should be issued at the end of a defined period where information is still being considered by the police, as that could pose significant risks to public protection.

In response to Mrs Mason's phase 2 recommendations, for now we intend to maintain the current arrangements for holding criminal records on the police national computer, while ensuring the controls on accessing those records are sufficiently strong. At the same time, we will take her steer in terms of providing a clearer definition of what constitutes a criminal record and reviewing precisely which convictions and other disposals should be recorded on national systems. Looking further forward, and following establishment of the long-term arrangements for the management and delivery of the PNC services after the NPIA has been closed, we will consider the need for alternative options for sharing and managing criminal records. Similarly, we will review and update the strategy for international exchange of criminal records.

I am clear that, taken as a package, the implementation of Mrs Mason's recommendations will make a key contribution to our commitment to scale back the criminal records regime to common-sense levels.

JUSTICE

Forfeiture Rule and Law of Succession

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): I am today announcing that I have made an order to bring sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Estates of Deceased Persons (Forfeiture Rule and Law of Succession) Act 2011 (the Act) into force on 1 February 2012. The Act implements, with modifications, recommendations of the Law Commission.

The Act amends the law of succession in England and Wales where a person disclaims (that is, rejects) an inheritance or is disqualified from receiving an inheritance by reason of the forfeiture rule. The forfeiture rule is defined in section 1 of the Forfeiture Act 1982 as meaning the rule of public policy which in certain circumstances precludes a person who has unlawfully killed another, or unlawfully aided, abetted, counselled or procured the death of that other, from acquiring a benefit in consequence of the killing.

In both these situations, the Act has the effect that the person who disclaims or whose inheritance is forfeited is treated, for the purpose of deciding who may inherit, as having died immediately before the testator or intestate. This will have the effect on intestacy that persons claiming through the person who is deemed to have died, such as his or her children, will be able to inherit. Where there is a will, the identity of the person entitled to the property instead of the person who is deemed to have died will depend on the terms of the will.

The Act also amends the law so that a child is able to inherit his or her parent's interest in an intestate estate, where the parent dies neither married nor civil partnered before the age of 18 and the child is alive at the time of the intestate's death.

SCOTLAND

Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland (David Mundell): I regret that the written answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Harwich and North Essex (Mr Jenkin) on 15 November, *Official Report*, column 665W, contained an error. The answer stated that the TaxPayers Alliance applied for permission to bring judicial review against the Secretary of State for Scotland in respect of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games Act 2008 (Games Association Right) Order 2009. This is not correct. The application for permission to bring judicial review was made by Big Brother Watch and not by the TaxPayers Alliance.

The correct answer is as follows:

David Mundell: In the last Parliament there were two applications:

(1) Derek Traynor and James Fisher raised petitions for judicial review against the Secretary of State for Scotland and Scottish Ministers in respect of the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2007. The applications were unsuccessful at first instance in the Court of Session, the petitioners appealed, and the appeals remain pending at their request. The legal costs incurred by the Secretary of State for Scotland to date are £4,555.50.

(2) Big Brother Watch applied for permission to bring judicial review against the Secretary of State for Scotland in respect of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games Act 2008 (Games Association Right) Order 2009. The application was refused. The Scotland Office's legal costs were £7,080. The Scotland Office applied for costs against the applicant. Costs were awarded in part and they have been paid.

There have been no applications for judicial review against the Scotland Office since May 2010.

TRANSPORT

Railway Stations (Access for All)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): Improving access to Great Britain's railway stations is a key priority for this Government. I am therefore pleased to announce today a further £37.5 million of "mid-tier" Access for All funding for projects requiring up to £1 million of Government support. This forms part of the wider £370 million Access for All programme launched in 2006 which will deliver an accessible, step-free route at 148 key stations. Rail passengers will benefit from better access through the provision of new lifts, ramps, raised "easier access humps" on platforms as well as new accessible toilets.

Major improvements will take place at stations across the country including at London Paddington, St Austell, Stratford, Stratford-upon-Avon and Ystrad Mynach. Network Rail will also receive funding to add tactile edge paving at 27 stations and £5 million to provide "easy access humps" to reduce the stepping distance between the platform and the train. The full list of successful stations will be made available on the Department for Transport's website.

All work at the stations will be completed by March 2014.

We are also taking the opportunity to increase the funding allocated to train operating companies. This funding will increase from £5 million a year to £7 million a year for the next three years, beginning in April 2012. It is based on the number of stations that they manage and is used to deliver smaller scale or more locally focused access improvements at stations.

Finally, I have agreed to release £57 million from the existing budget earlier than planned to allow the accelerated delivery of obstacle-free routes at 27 stations.

Business Plan (Update)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): The Department for Transport's business plan says that, following the consultation on high-speed rail which was held earlier this year, we would complete the analysis of consultation responses and announce our subsequent decisions to Parliament in December.

Since taking up office in October I have been considering the issues, raised as part of the consultation and additionally have listened to the views of hon. Members. In order to ensure that my decision is based on a careful consideration of all relevant factors, I have concluded that I should allow myself until early in 2012 to announce my decisions. I am therefore notifying the House that I will not be making a further statement on the subject of high-speed rail this year, but I expect to announce my decisions in January.

Defending Against Piracy (UK Ships)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): The rise in the number of incidents involving pirates in certain parts of the world has highlighted the need to ensure UK-flagged vessels are able to adequately protect themselves against such threats. Evidence shows that ships with armed guards are less likely to be attacked and taken for ransom, and the House will be aware that the Prime Minister confirmed last month that the Government now recognise the use of private armed guards as an option to protect UK registered ships and their crews from acts of piracy. This applies in exceptional circumstances as defined below:

- when the ship is transiting the high seas throughout the high-risk area (an area bounded by Suez and the straights of Hormuz to the north, 10°S and 78°E); and
- the latest "Best Management Practices" is being followed fully but, on its own, is not deemed by the shipping company and the ship's master as sufficient to protect against acts of piracy; and
- the use of armed guards is assessed to reduce the risk to the lives and well-being of those onboard the ship.

I am therefore today, publishing interim guidance to shipping companies on the use of armed guards onboard UK flagged ships. This guidance covers, among other things, the factors to be included in the risk assessment, advice on selecting a private security company, and a requirement for the shipping company to produce a counter-piracy plan and submit a copy to my Department.

A private security company (PSC) employed to put armed guards on board UK ships will require authorisation from the Home Office for possession of any prohibited firearms as defined in the Firearms Act 1968 (as amended). Checks will be carried out by the Home Office and police into the PSC and its personnel before an authorisation is granted.

The guidance to shipping companies and the Home Office process for authorising the possession of prohibited firearms are both interim and will be reviewed within 12 months so that they reflect continuing national and international work to ensure high standards in the provision of armed guards in the maritime domain.

Roads Classification

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): I am pleased to announce that, following consultation, the Department will be devolving responsibility for roads classification and aspects of the primary route network from April 2012.

This marks the first major revision of these systems since the first Wilson Government, and represents a major decentralisation of power. It will greatly improve the ability of local authorities to make changes on their roads, and greatly reduce the amount of central Government resource needed to run the system.

Under the new system:

- Local authorities will have control over roads classification decisions in their area, determining which roads should be "A" roads, "B" roads, etc.
- Local authorities will be able to set the roads used by the primary route network ("A" roads with green signs), while central Government retain oversight of the whole system.
- Central Government will continue to look after the strategic road network.

For roads classification and the primary route network, the Department for Transport will reduce its role to handling appeal cases and any disputes which might

arise between local authorities, leaving local authorities to manage their roads in the manner they judge most effective.

As part of the consultation, we also took the opportunity to examine whether there might be better ways to link the management of the system with sat-nav technology. The Department will be taking this work forward, and will make a further statement in the new year.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Remploy (Annual Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): The Remploy annual report and financial statements 2011 are published today. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office later today. Electronic copies will be available on the Remploy website:

http://www.remploy.co.uk/about-us/corporategovernance/annualreports.ashx

I have written to the chairman of Remploy formally approving the agreed 2011-12 performance and resources agreement between the Department and the company, as follows:

Target Description	*Target*
To live within the company's financial means in the 2011-12 financial year and achieve:	
operational funding result of	£97.7 million
modernisation of the business within a cost of	£5.4 million
Factory businesses to achieve:	
an operating result (loss) of	£52.5 million
cost per disabled employee of	£24,000
Employment Service business to achieve	
an operating result of	£28.2 million
total job outcomes of	18,000
—of which total disabled job outcomes	16,500
—of which Work Choice job outcomes	7,500
—of which other Grant-in-Aid funded outcomes	1,000
—of which other disabled job outcomes	8,000

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TREASURY

Asset Protection Agency

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Asset Protection Agency (APA) has today published two legal agreements relating to the asset protection scheme (APS). Copies of the agreements have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

The first of these agreements moves the main focus of asset management governance to the riskiest assets in the APS, to ensure that the level of APA oversight is commensurate with our current view of the risk associated with the APS. The second principally introduces revised rules for overdrafts that are outside the scope of the supplemental agreement relating to operational alignment outlined in the written ministerial statement laid on 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 35WS. This resolves an agreement to agree in the original accession agreement.

These agreements are in addition to the supplemental agreement on aligning the operation of the APS with RBS's "business as usual" finance and risk management process, as outlined in the WMS on 14 July 2011. Details of other previous supplemental agreements are contained in the WMS laid on 15 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 72WS .

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): I announced on 23 June 2011 that the Government's changes to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Government communication would include the closure of the Central Office of Information (COI). The Central Office of Information Trading Fund (Revocation) Order 2011, laid before the House of Commons today, provides for the COI trading fund to cease to exist on 30 December 2011. On the same day as the COI trading fund ceases to exist, the Prime Minister has agreed that the existing functions of COI should be transferred to the Cabinet Office and therefore that COI will cease to exist as a separate non-ministerial Department.

DEFENCE

EU Foreign Affairs Council (Defence)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Gerald Howarth): The EU Foreign Affairs Council met in Defence Ministers formation on 30 November 2011 in Brussels. I represented the UK.

The agenda items covered were current operations, partnerships, the Athena mechanism review (the method for calculating common funding for military operations), and the European Defence Agency (EDA) budget.

Foreign Affairs Council (Defence)

The three current EU operations, Operation Atalanta (counter-piracy). Operation Althea (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and EU training mission Somalia (military training mission) were discussed in the Council. While expressing concern about the difficulty in meeting the commitments to which member states have agreed, I expressed the UK's support for these ongoing operations and presented the UK's offer to continue to command Operation Atalanta from the UK's operational headquarters at Northwood.

EU/NATO partnerships were also discussed, re-emphasising the importance of close working relations while avoiding duplication.

There was no discussion at the Council on the Athena mechanism review (the method for calculating common funding for military operations) as nations had been unable previously to reach agreement. The noble Baroness Ashton proposed that further work should be carried out and the Council conclusions noted the ongoing work on the review with a view to an agreement by the end of 2011.

I made clear that, in the current economic climate, with most member states, including the UK, reducing their defence budgets, I could not agree to an increase in the budget of the EDA for 2012. The Council subsequently agreed to freeze the EDA budget for 2012 at the same level as 2011 (€30.5 million) in accordance with the recommendation of Baroness Ashton.

Defence and Foreign Secretaries' Joint Dinner

In the Defence and Foreign Secretaries' joint dinner, the EU's performance in planning and conducting missions and operations was discussed with further discussions taking place at the Foreign Affairs Council on 1 December 2011. The outcome of these discussions is reported separately in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's written ministerial statement on the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC).

In the FAC, Council conclusions on common security and defence policy (CSDP), missions and operations, capability development and improving the EU's performance in planning and conducting missions and operations were agreed. These can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/126504.pdf.

The European Defence Agency Steering Board

An EDA steering board at Defence Ministers level was held immediately before the Foreign Affairs Council (Defence). This meeting agreed the EDA work programme 2012, the EDA work plan for 2012-14, the annual defence data report, and the establishment of the helicopter training programme category B project which meets the UK's requirement for EDA preparations to deliver real capability. I announced the UK's intention to join the helicopter training programme project. There was a substantive discussion on pooling and sharing; in particular on the opportunities identified by the EDA and member states expressed their interest in engaging in specific projects and programmes.

HEALTH

NHS Outcomes Framework 2012-13

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" (Cm 7881) outlined a vision of an NHS that achieves health outcomes that are among the best in the world. It explained that an NHS outcomes framework would be developed to provide national level accountability for the outcomes that the NHS delivers.

I have today published "The NHS Outcomes Framework 2012-13". This refreshes the first NHS outcomes framework published for England in December 2010 and includes updated definitions for some of the indicators in the framework.

The framework has three main purposes, which remain the same in this updated version:

to provide a national level overview of how the NHS is performing against certain outcome measures;

to act as a mechanism for the Secretary of State to hold the NHS Commissioning Board to account for delivering improvements in outcomes, from April 2013; and

to act as a catalyst for driving improvement and a focus on outcomes throughout the NHS.

A copy of "The NHS Outcomes Framework 2012-13" has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): I would like to inform the House of the outcomes from the fourth high-level forum on aid effectiveness, which I attended in Busan, Republic of Korea on 29 November to 1 December 2011.

I am pleased to report that Britain's three priority areas for Busan—results, transparency and fragile states—formed the core of the Busan outcome document, and that our goal of getting an agreement that the emerging economies could support was also met.

A major achievement of the forum was the establishment of a new global partnership for effective development co-operation, which for the first time includes emerging economies like China and Brazil as participants in a development partnership based on recognised common goals and shared principles. This followed significant work by the UK to ensure China joined the partnership, including discussions I held with Chinese Minister of Commerce Chen Deming in Beijing immediately ahead of Busan. The global partnership also includes civil society, Parliaments and the private sector, recognising the important role played by each in achieving development results.

The Busan outcome document: "Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation" places the UK's focus on results, transparency and fragility at the heart of the international development agenda. It includes agreement to a new shared principle to "Focus on Results", aimed at ensuring our development efforts have a lasting impact on eradicating poverty, and reflecting UK-led work over the past 18 months to build international support for this agenda. There was also agreement to a new shared principle on transparency, and further success in this important area with the US, Canada and CDC all signing up to the UK-led international aid transparency initiative. This will significantly boost further the information available to citizens about aid, helping enable them to hold their Governments to account.

Another achievement in Busan was the launch of the "New Deal" for ways of working in fragile and conflict-affected countries, which are often furthest from reaching the millennium development goals (MDGs). The UK has played a key role in developing this "New Deal", which includes five new peace-building and state-building goals aimed at making progress in areas where it is most urgently needed, including justice, security and jobs. I was pleased to announce in Busan that the UK will be partnering South Sudan and Afghanistan to implement the "New Deal".

I am determined to ensure that the agreements reached there are followed up and that the new global partnership achieves the goals set out. As part of this we will be working with others to maintain the clear focus on results needed to improve the lives of millions of poor people around the world, and to ensure value for money for the UK taxpayer.

PRIME MINISTER

Strategic Defence and Security Review (First Annual Report)

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): Along with the Deputy Prime Minister, and the other members of the National Security Council, I am pleased to provide the House with the following update on implementation of the 2010 strategic defence and security review. This review was undertaken at a time of immense challenge for UK defence and security: a severe mismatch between future defence plans and budgets inherited from the previous Government; the absence of any up-to-date strategy within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), due to the lack of a defence review for 12 years; a major global economic crisis that required action across the whole of Government to tackle the deficit; and armed forces engaged in a major campaign in Afghanistan. As the Government made it clear at the time, the challenges facing defence were too great to solve in a single review. But the SDSR took the first vital steps to transform UK defence and security to face the challenges of the 21st century.

Based on the conclusions of the new national security strategy, "A Strong Britain in an Age of Uncertainty", the SDSR described the National Security Council's chosen policy response: an adaptable defence and security posture able to respond flexibly to a wide range of potential crises while continuing to fulfil our standing commitments. This is an approach that depends upon integrated effort across Government, achieving greater effect by combining defence, development, diplomatic,

intelligence and other capabilities. Events over the last year, especially the profound changes under way in north Africa, have underlined the wisdom of this approach: few predicted an Arab spring even six months before it occurred—powerfully illustrating the need for a highly adaptable posture The campaign in Libya showed it was right to keep balanced armed forces, right to retain a significant RAF fast-jet capability, right to focus on building practical co-operation with the UAE and Qatar, and right to be buying more drones, tanker aircraft, helicopters and intelligence gathering capability.

We undertook in the SDSR to report annually to Parliament on its implementation. Today the Deputy Prime Minister and I are placing copies of the first SDSR annual progress report in the Library of the House. The report describes the work that has been carried out in the last year. Key developments include agreement on a radical plan to transform the MOD, based on the conclusions of the review by Lord Levene; taking the very difficult further steps necessary to close the £38 billion shortfall in funding over the next 10 years; completion of a review into the future of the reserve forces; establishment of a transformative cyber-security programme; new measures to tackle both the terrorist and organised crime threats to the UK; and expanding and strengthening our network of influence in a fast changing world.

Decisions taken during the SDSR and the 2010 comprehensive spending review ensured that we will continue to meet the NATO target of spending at least 2% of GDP on defence over the spending review period: in 2014-15, the UK defence budget will be £33.5 billion. Further work was undertaken this year to address the longer-term financial position so that on 18 July the Government were able to set out plans to increase in real terms the investment in defence equipment by 1% per annum between 2015-16 and 2020-21. On the same day, the Government announced detailed plans to return the Army from Germany and £1.5 billion of additional investment in our reserve forces, expanding their size after years of decline, enhancing their role and adjusting the long-term balance between the regulars and reserves. Taken together with a range of further measures this has brought the defence programme broadly into balance with the resources available for the first time in many years and ensured that the Government can deliver the long-term vision for our armed forces: Future Force 2020.

These measures ensure that Britain retains the fourth largest military budget in the world and that we will invest around £150 billion in equipment for our armed forces over the next 10 years. By tackling the imbalance in the defence programme, the Government have been able to commit to a range of new equipment programmes for which funding had previously not been identified, including 14 new Chinook helicopters and refurbishment of the Army's fleet of Warrior vehicles. In May this year, formal approval was granted to begin the assessment phase for the programme to replace the Vanguard-class submarines. In addition, to assist the Liberal Democrats make the case for alternatives to the Trident system, the Government initiated a study into the costs, feasibility and credibility of alternative nuclear deterrent systems and postures. Progress has also been made on implementing the new nuclear assurances policy and the reduction in our nuclear weapon stockpile to no more than 180 warheads, both commitments set out in the SDSR.

The past year has seen significant changes in the threat from international terrorism. Al Qaeda's leadership is now weaker than at any time since 9/11. But al-Qaeda continues to pose a threat and groups affiliated to al-Qaeda in countries such as Yemen and Somalia have emerged as a threat in their own right. We are implementing a revised counter-terrorism strategy to tackle the terrorist threat to the UK and our interests overseas. In keeping with the approach in the SDSR, we are also working hard to tackle the underlying causes of instability in Yemen and Somalia.

The SDSR recognised the rapidly changing nature of opportunities and risks from cyberspace. Following the April launch of the UK's £650 million national cyber-security programme, the new cyber-security strategy, published on 25 November, sets out the UK's approach to cyber-security in four priority areas: securing opportunities for UK growth, including overhauling the UK's approach to tackling cybercrime; strengthening and securing UK infrastructure and improving our ability to protect our national interests in cyberspace; helping shape an open, vibrant and safe cyberspace; and improving national cyber-security skills and capabilities. November's London conference on cyberspace demonstrated the UK's continued lead in international cyber-thinking and enabled us to build alliances with like-minded nations, the private sector and civil society.

The organised crime strategy, "Local to Global", was published in July, setting out the Government's response to organised crime, a key element being the creation of the National Crime Agency—a powerful new body of operational crime fighters that will make the UK a hostile environment for serious and organised criminality. The NCA will incorporate a border policing command which will provide a co-ordinated, multi-agency, cohesive approach to securing the border.

Tackling the root causes of instability and helping to resolve conflicts overseas are key national security tasks. We have put development at the heart of an integrated approach that supports the world's most vulnerable people and protects Britain from external threats. The FCO, DFID and MOD launched the building stability overseas strategy on 19 July. The three Departments are now working with the rest of Government and with NGOs and international partners to implement the strategy. In other areas too, the SDSR committed us to focusing existing resources better in a more co-ordinated Government response. On natural hazards, the last year has seen the largest ever multi-agency exercise to test the UK's response, as well as a review of arrangements for an influenza pandemic and vital steps to reduce the vulnerability of critical national infrastructure.

In a rapidly changing world, alliances and partnerships are more important than ever to the UK's international influence and therefore our national security and prosperity. Internationally we rarely act alone. We are working more closely with established allies, including through the two ground-breaking defence treaties signed with France last year and our continuing close co-operation with the USA. We continue to deepen our defence co-operation with France and to explore the potential to open such co-operation to other nations willing to invest in developing and deploying modern military capabilities. The UK has led the debate on tougher action on piracy, commanding EU Operation Atalanta, the EU mission to counter piracy off the coast of

Somalia. On 11 May, the Foreign Office also announced plans to expand its diplomatic network in India, China, Brazil, Turkey, Mexico and Indonesia, and re-open embassies in Côte D'Ivoire, El Salvador and Madagascar. We will use this strengthened diplomatic network to develop the partnerships the UK needs not only to ensure our security but also to promote British commercial interests—as we did through the UK business delegations that have accompanied ministerial visits to China, India, Brazil and Russia.

The acid test of any defence and security strategy is its ability to deal with a crisis. The UK's prompt and flexible military, diplomatic and stabilisation activity in Libya confirmed the validity of many of the key conclusions of the SDSR. The outstanding performance of our armed forces and civilians demonstrated the UK's continued ability to project power flexibly and to take a leading role in shaping international events. NATO again demonstrated its centrality. And the excellent political and military cooperation with France, other NATO partners and Gulf states demonstrated the vital importance of strengthening defence ties with existing allies and new partners in tackling defence and security.

Work continues across Government to implement the SDSR and we will provide a further annual update to Parliament in 2012.

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): I will attend the second Transport Council of the Polish presidency which will take place in Brussels on 12 December.

The presidency will be seeking a political agreement on a proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a single European railway area (Recast). The European Parliament had its first reading of this proposal on 16 November. Many of the Parliament's amendments differed significantly from the Council's general approach text. Following discussion at the one Council working group meeting that took place following the first reading it is expected the presidency will seek a political agreement, which incorporates only those amendments that do not alter the general approach, and thus will be acceptable to the UK.

The Council will be asked to reach a partial general approach on a draft regulation amending Regulation 3821/85 on recording equipment in road transport and amending Regulation 561/2006. The UK supports elements of the proposal that aim to reduce burdens on business. I will want to resist provisions that might impose unnecessary burdens or additional costs on Government or industry, including the proposal to ban operators from installing and calibrating tachographs in their own vehicles. I will be seeking to minimise the risks of increases in costs and burdens via future decisions taken by the European Commission ("the Commission") under a delegated or implementing act, by pressing for clearly specified constraints on the scope of proposed action.

The Council will be asked to reach a general approach on a proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2008/106/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the minimum level of training of seafarers. Although we would question the merit of a European database of seafarer certification, we have negotiated important changes which would require the anonymisation of seafarer personal data to be a mandatory precondition of the obligation to transfer data. We have also negotiated changes to align the text more closely with the deadline for the implementation of the amendments to the international convention on standards of training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers to avoid placing additional burdens on EU member states which would put our flags at a competitive disadvantage with other countries' flags.

The Council will be asked to reach a general approach on a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the accelerated phasing-in of double-hull or equivalent design requirements for single-hull oil tankers (Recast). The UK is in favour of the general approach proposed for the draft recast of these regulations which brings European law in line with amendments agreed at the International Maritime Organization.

There will also be a progress report on a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network. The UK recognises that the TEN-T network should be focused on projects that carry clear EU added value and should be supported by guidelines on projects seeking EU funding. We do not support standards and requirements being expanded to the wider TEN-T network on a mandatory basis. We believe that decisions on national projects to be prioritised for development and investment should remain with the member states and the transport operators concerned. Furthermore, the UK is keen to ensure that this proposal does not impose any additional financial or administrative burdens.

The main items under any other business include the Commission's presentation on its proposal for an airport package, the implementation and exploitation of European satellite navigation systems and the connecting Europe facility. The Commission will also provide information on the European aviation safety management system and air cargo security action plan.

The Polish presidency will provide information on the ministerial conference on Eastern Partnership held in Krakow on 24-25 October 2011 and on the high-level conference on the implementation of the single European sky and its extension to third countries held in Warsaw on 28 November 2011.

The Danish delegation will also provide information on the work programme of their forthcoming presidency of the EU.

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BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Innovation and Research Strategy

The Minister for Universities and Science (Mr David Willetts): The UK has a global reputation for innovation and research and our future prosperity rests on our ability to continue to compete in a global economy. Innovation and research is a key priority for this Government, and the Secretary of State and I are today publishing the Government's "Innovation and Research Strategy for Growth" which seeks to build on our existing strengths. A copy of the strategy is being placed in the House Library.

Our universities, research councils and businesses are national assets that form the foundation of the UK's future competitiveness. However, if we are to realise our vision for the UK's future we need to strengthen our innovative capability and encourage further investment in innovation.

The Government have already made clear our commitment to the UK knowledge base by maintaining the annual £4.6 billion budget for science and research programmes with £150 million each year supporting university-business interaction. Going further, we intend to maximise the impact of our research base on economic growth and have announced £610 million to science capital investment projects since January 2011.

We will improve incentives for companies to innovate, especially small and medium-sized enterprises. In addition to our successful changes to the SME research and development tax credit we will invest an additional £75 million to support small business innovation including additional funding for Smart grants that support SME research and development. We will implement a new innovation voucher programme enabling small businesses to engage with universities and the wider knowledge base.

We will also support research innovation and collaboration overseas, focusing on innovation hot spots and high-growth economies, starting with China and India. We will make it a priority to secure greater European funding to support research and development by UK businesses.

The coalition Government are putting innovation and research at the heart of their growth agenda through greater investment and increased collaboration, ensuring that the UK has a promising future.

Unlocking Growth in Cities

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Greg Clark): The Government are today publishing "Unlocking Growth in Cities", which describes a new framework for the relationship between our largest cities and central Government. In particular, the document sets out the terms for a system of "city deals"—binding agreements which enable cities to negotiate the devolution of specific powers, resources and responsibilities required to meet locally-determined economic and social objectives.

The Government are committed to the decisive action required to restore confidence in our economy. This, above all, rests on the principle that sustained recovery and long-term prosperity can only be achieved through private sector growth. This will not occur in the abstract, but through the success of real businesses in real places—especially our cities which, together with their wider commuting areas, account for 74% of England's population and 78% of English jobs.

To achieve their full potential, our urban communities must be empowered to act in support of their local economies. It is widely recognised that, compared to their European counterparts, English cities have less influence over the key decisions that affect their competitiveness in national and international markets. Because power and influence over relevant policy making areas has been so heavily skewed towards Whitehall and Westminster, civic leaders have been forced to look upwards to central Government to resolve problems, rather than through direct engagement with existing and potential sources of private and voluntary sector investment and innovation.

We are therefore committed to revitalising the role of city leadership through a radical shift in power, allowing cities to take on certain responsibilities and resources from Government wherever they can make the case that this would improve the efficiency and outcomes of public policy.

The document sets out a series of indicative options for the transfers of control that could be considered as part of each deal making process. This list is not intended as a statement of policy or as an automatic entitlement for all cities, it is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive. Rather, the specifics of each city deal negotiation will be determined by city-led initiative and its conclusion dependent on the strength of the case presented. From the Government side, we will look for a clear economic rationale, a robust evidence base, an appropriate geography, the acceptance of a proportionate degree of risk and proper standards of governance, co-operation and accountability.

Supported by the Cities Policy Unit in the Cabinet Office, and in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, I will, as Minister for Cities, work closely with city leaders and with colleagues across Whitehall Departments to agree a series of city deals over the coming months. Our timings will reflect the needs and readiness of each city, but given the national imperative to boost economic growth, and the enthusiasm in our cities for moving this agenda forward, we intend to move at pace, agreeing the first wave of city deals by spring next year.

Because of their size and economic importance, we are currently focusing on the largest cities in England. However, taking account of the lessons to be learned from this first wave, we will consider the case for extending the city deal process to other communities in due course.

I have placed copies of "Unlocking Growth in Cities" in Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

Bank Levy Double Taxation Agreement (UK and Germany)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): A double taxation agreement with Germany was signed on 7 December 2011 in relation to both countries' bank levies. The text of the agreement has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be annexed as a schedule to a Treasury Order and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

RDEL Revisions

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Danny Alexander): The autumn statement announced that public sector pay awards will average 1 % for each of the two years following the end of the current pay freeze, and that departmental budgets will be adjusted in line with this policy.

The pay policy will be applied to health, schools, and international development, but the savings will be recycled within existing budgets.

Departmental resource DEL budgets (excluding depreciation) will adjusted by the following amounts:

			£ million
	2012-13	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Education[1]	-4	-25	-42
Transport	-6	-14	-14
CLG Communities	-3	-6	-6
CLG Local Government[2]	0	-240	-497
Business, Innovation and Skills	-9	-19	-19
Home Office[3]	-14	-68	-135
Justice	0	-43	-85
Law Officers' Departments	0	-4	-9
Defence	0	-103	-197
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	0	-3	-7
Energy and Climate Change	-1	-3	-3
Environment Food and Rural Affairs	-10	-22	-22
Culture Media and Sport	-4	-9	-9
Work and Pensions	-32	-72	-72
Scotland	-4	-23	-38
Wales	-2	-19	-35
Northern Ireland	-2	-10	-15
HM Revenue and Customs	0	-24	-47
HMT	-1	-1	-1
CO	-2	-4	-4
SIA	0	-11	-11
Small and Independent Bodies	0	-4	-4
Total[4]	-95	-727	-1272

[1] The budget for schools will be unaffected

[2] Local Government DEL includes funding for fire and rescue authorities and some police funding (shared with the Home Office)

[3] Home Office DEL includes some police funding (shared with local government)

[4] The total DEL reductions are greater than the total managed expenditure (TME) savings scored in the autumn statement, because the TME savings take into account the costs of reduced pension contributions that result from lower pay growth

Reductions to budgets will be made immediately and will be reflected at the main estimate, which will go before Parliament next year.

This represents an average reduction of approximately 1% of affected resource budgets in 2014-15.

As a result of this reduction in departmental budgets, there will be a consequential Barnett reduction in the resource allocation to the Scottish Government, Welsh Government, and Northern Ireland Executive. However, the overall effect of the autumn statement will be a net increase in current budgets for the devolved Administrations. Scotland will see an increase of £69 million, Wales an increase of £22 million, and Northern Ireland an increase of £37 million over the spending review period as a result of the measures announced.

Departments will have flexibility over how they implement the pay policy across their work forces, with pay review bodies and negotiating machinery playing their usual role.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Finance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): I am today publishing the Government's formal proposals on distribution of formula grant to English local authorities for 2012-13. Total formula grant for 2012-13 will be £27.8 billion, of which redistributed business rates will be £23.1 billion, revenue support grant £477 million and police grant £4.2 billion.

The 2010 spending review set out how the Government are tackling the deficit we have inherited from the last Administration and put the public finances back in order. Every bit of the public sector needs to do its bit to help pay off the deficit, including local government, which accounts for a quarter of all public spending. The settlements for 2011-12 and 2012-13 set out on 13 December 2010 sought to achieve fair and sustainable settlements for local government between different parts of the country—from urban to rural, north to south, metropolitan to shire.

This settlement is supported by our extension of the successful council tax freeze scheme to a second year, building on the 2011-12 freeze offer taken up by all eligible councils. The offer being made to local authorities for 2012-13 is set out in the written statement of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 27WS. Council tax more than doubled since 1997 and the freeze will offer real help to hard working families and once again save up to £72 compared to a 5% rise in council tax on top of this year's saving of up to £72. All eligible authorities took up the offer of Government funding to freeze or reduce their council tax in 2011-12. By offering their local residents a council tax freeze again this year, it will offer real help now with the cost of living to local residents, including pensioners, private sector workers and public sector workers.

The estimated yield from business rates in England will be £23.119 billion in 2012-13. Since this is greater than the formula grant control total for 2012-13 agreed

at the spending review, the second year's funding for authorities which froze or reduced their council tax in 2011-12 has been included in formula grant for this year. This increases the total amount included as formula grant for 2012-13 to £27.791 billion.

The overall settlement is in keeping with that first proposed in February 2011. The sum of the provisional 2012-13 formula grant as at 7 February 2011 and the 2011-12 council tax freeze grant, therefore, form the allocations of formula grant for 2012-13. The council tax freeze grant allocations remain separately identifiable, and the subtotal given in the breakdown table for each authority is the same as the provisional 2012-13 formula grant allocations as at 7 February 2011 (my written statement of 7 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 1WS). This is in line with the Government's policy on multi year settlements, which is that we will not change the provisional proposals first published in February 2011 except in entirely exceptional circumstances.

We have continued to focus resources in a way that gives more weight to those parts of the country with the highest levels of need. These are often the areas which are most reliant on central Government grant. As in 2011-12, in calculating the grant distributions we have acted to insulate them by distributing less money on a per capita basis, and giving more weight to the levels of need within different areas. We have also grouped councils into four bands and set different "floors" for their grant reductions. This is a fairer and more progressive system of calculating grant than before.

This year's settlement means that the average spending power reduction for 2012-13 is expected to be limited to 3.3% (or £75 per household), less than last year's comparable figure of 4.5%. We have also again made sure that no council will see their overall spending power fall by more than 8.8%. To fund this, I have transferred £20 million of my Department's budget to local government for 2012-13. This additional funding will smooth the impact of this year's settlement. Councils will have an average spending power of £2,186 per household at their disposal in 2012-13. Reflecting the fairness of the settlement, the average spending power per household in Hackney will be £3,050 compared with £1,537 in Windsor and Maidenhead.

Many councils have successfully shown that they can deliver significant efficiencies but there is still more to be done. Smarter procurement, reducing management and support services costs, greater transparency to cut waste, sharing services and tackling fraud can all deliver significant savings to help protect front-line services and taxpayers' interests. And to support councils the Localism Act will trigger the biggest transfer of power in a generation to local communities.

Moreover, I would note that in the coming year, local government will have access to new financial measures including over £430 million of funding under new homes bonus, up to a £1 billion in community infrastructure levy, and access to the £2.4 billion regional growth fund and the £500 million growing places fund (through their local enterprise partnerships).

The Localism Act also includes powers to abolish Whitehall capping in England and instead allow local residents to veto excessive council tax rises. I can confirm that we are moving ahead with introducing arrangements for council tax referendums if an authority sets a council tax which exceeds principles endorsed by Parliament (i.e. is "excessive"). These provisions will be implemented for 2012-13 and I am also today giving an indication of the principles I am minded to propose for that year. I propose that local authorities will be required to seek the approval of their local electorate in a referendum if, compared with 2011-12, they set council tax increases that exceed:

3.5% for most principal authorities;

3.75% for the City of London;

4% for the Greater London Authority, police authorities, and single purpose fire and rescue authorities.

I am proposing that no equivalent principles will apply for town and parish councils for 2012-13, although they may in future years.

Of course, should all eligible local authorities take up the new council tax freeze offer for 2012-13 there will be no need for council tax referendums next year. After considering any representations from authorities, I will set out the final principles in a report to the House and seek approval for these in parallel with the final report on the 2012-13 local government finance settlement.

Any town hall that turns down the council tax freeze offer and tries to hike council tax bills unreasonably will now have to ask at the ballot box whether hard-working families and pensioners are willing to shoulder an increase in their cost of living.

Finally, this is a transitional settlement where we have set out details of the settlement for two years, striking a balance between the need to help councils plan for the future and the need to reform the system. Ministers believe the current system we have inherited from the last administration is broken. As the National Audit Office has observed, the formula grant system is

"highly complex and not transparent"

and

"the complexity of the four-block model... [serves to] obscure the link between needs, resources and funding"

(NAO, "Formula funding of local public services", July 2011, HC 1090, p.26).

We have recently consulted on proposals that would lead to fundamental reform to the funding of local government, moving away from the existing arrangements where there is no connection between the health of the local economy and the funding of the local authority. Our proposals will provide councils with greater control over their funding, developing a direct link between the growth of businesses in their area, and the revenues available to them. These proposals, which we intend to introduce from 2013-14, will deliver direct financial incentives for authorities that promote economic growth and help many councils break free from dependency on grants from central Government. The Government will set out their response to the consultation proposals to the House shortly.

Today also marks the start of a period of statutory consultation with local government on formula grant distribution and I welcome their responses. Consultation closes on 16 January 2012.

I shall be making available full supporting information on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1213/grant.htm.

This includes a "Plain English Guide to the Local Government Finance Settlement" for 2012-13 which I hope will be helpful in cutting through the jargon and the sheer complexity of the current system.

I have placed copies of the consultation paper and the Plain English Guide, as well as details of the location of other supporting material, in the Vote Office and the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Libya (Operation Ellamy)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Philip Hammond): In a written statement on 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 24WS, my predecessor the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) informed the House that the costs of Operation Ellamy—the United Kingdom's contribution to coalition operations in Libya in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973—for the six months from mid-March to mid-September were estimated to be £120 million. In addition, an estimated cost of replenishing munitions of up to £140 million.

On 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 30WS, my predecessor revised the figure for the whole operation, from mid-March to mid-December, to £160 million with an estimate of the cost of replenishing munitions used in Libya at £140 million.

I have previously informed the House, on 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 568, that I would provide a final estimate of the cost of operations in Libya in early December. With operations now over we estimate that the net additional cost of Operation Ellamy will be £212 million. This estimate is made up of £145 million of operating costs, plus a further £67 million on the cost of replenishing munitions.

As previously announced, the additional costs incurred by the Ministry of Defence on Operation Ellamy will be borne by the reserve, and will be in addition to the core defence budget. The fully audited cost of Operation Ellamy will be published in the Ministry of Defence's annual report and accounts.

Submarine Service

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Philip Hammond): I am pleased to inform the House that, following a review, women in the Royal Navy will be allowed to serve in submarines in the future.

The decision follows an 18-month thorough analysis, which included a study of legal, operational, health, social, technical, and financial issues. Key to this was the naval service's operational effectiveness now and in the future. This decision to allow women to serve in submarines will enable the Royal Navy to maximise the deployability of its talent pool.

Recent medical research has shown that there are no risks to female health during normal submarine operations, so there are no medical reasons for excluding women from service in submarines, provided they are not pregnant. An independent peer review of this work concluded that, while there was no medical risk to women, there remains a risk to a foetus, which could emanate from the higher level of carbon dioxide in submarines in comparison to normal atmospheric conditions. There is no danger from radiation; the average annual dose of radiation accrued by Royal Navy submariners is actually less than the average annual background dose received by the general population of the UK (as submariners are not as frequently exposed to the sun). External legal counsel has advised that the scientific and medical evidence did not justify a ban on female submariners, but did require the exclusion of pregnant submariners.

Female officers will be introduced first into the Vanguard class as soon as the policy and practical changes can be made, which is expected to be towards the end of 2013, with a small number of volunteers commencing submarine training in late 2012. The first female ratings to join a Vanguard class submarine will be recruited and trained from 2014, to join sometime in 2015. Women will also be permitted to serve in the Astute class, but probably not before 2016, when the necessary modifications to accommodation and facilities have been made.

EDUCATION

Academies Funding Transfer

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): I am today publishing a consultation setting out my "minded to" decision in relation to the academies funding transfer for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

The decision has been reached in consultation with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and takes account of the responses received from local authorities to our consultation, issued in July 2011, about the basis for the decision.

The decision takes account of the need to ensure that both academies and local authorities are funded fairly for the pupils they provide services for and the responsibilities which they hold. We have also considered how best we can ensure that the amount transferred better reflects the distribution of academies between local authorities.

We plan to make changes from April 2012 to the methodology for calculating the level of the transfer to ensure that the amount transferred properly reflects the services which transfer to academies from their local authority. We will do this in two ways. First we will, in future, only take account of net expenditure on education services; and secondly, in areas where some responsibilities remain with the local authority, we will only use a proportion of spend in those areas to determine the amount to be transferred.

To provide financial stability and certainty to local authorities we will cap the maximum amount to be transferred in 2012-13 at the level of the top-slice of formula grant which has been announced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. In addition we will make a calculation for each authority in January 2013 of the costs of the local authority element of local authority central spend equivalent grant (LACSEG) based on the number of academies in each authority. Where the costs calculated for an authority

are below the amount top-sliced from formula grant, we will make a specific grant payment to that authority equivalent to the difference between the costs and the top-slice.

To provide further certainty to local authorities we plan to make no changes to the previously announced top-slice for 2011-12 as we believe that taking action to redistribute costs at this stage in the financial year would cause unnecessary turmoil and instability.

This arrangement, whilst providing financial certainty and stability to local authorities, means that the Government will continue to provide a considerable amount of double funding in this area. Given the poor value for money which this provides the taxpayer these arrangements should only be seen as transitional.

The Government are committed to resolving the double funding of local authorities for services which devolve to academies permanently from 2013-14. As part of the local government resource review, we will explore removing the funding for these services from formula grant into the budget of the Department for Education. In this option, the Department would then a administer a grant to authorities and to academies proportionate to the number of pupils for which they are responsible according to a national rate. We plan to consult, jointly with the Department for Communities and Local Government, in 2012 on how we could put our commitment permanently to solve this issue into effect.

I have placed copies of the consultation paper in the Vote Office and the House Libraries.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

New Nuclear Waste and Decommissioning Financing

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): I have today laid before Parliament Funded Decommissioning Programme (FDP) guidance for prospective operators of new nuclear power stations, together with the Government response to the December 2010 consultation on draft FDP guidance and a Waste Transfer Pricing Methodology for the disposal of higher activity waste from new nuclear power stations.

The FDP guidance is statutory guidance that is provided for in the Energy Act 2008. It sets out the factors which may be appropriate for the Secretary of State to consider in deciding whether or not to approve an FDP, approve it with conditions, or modify an FDP which has already been approved. The guidance also sets out information about the preparation, content, modification and implementation of FDPs under the Energy Act.

The Waste Transfer Pricing Methodology is a technical document the purpose of which is to set out how the Government will determine the price for the transfer of title to and liability for intermediate level waste and spent fuel from a new nuclear operator to the Government, for disposal in the geological disposal facility that the Government will construct for the disposal of legacy wastes. The methodology also provides some worked examples.

I have placed an electronic copy of each document in the Libraries of the House. A copy of each document is also available on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/nuclear/new/waste_costs/waste_costs.aspx.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Water White Paper

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I am today laying before Parliament "Water for Life", our water White Paper. This sets out the Government's vision for securing sustainable and resilient water supplies through to 2050. It builds on the success of the sector since water privatisation, while recognising that population growth and climate change will place extra demands on a system designed to meet the needs of today, not tomorrow.

The White Paper includes new scenarios of water availability in the 2050s. We need to start planning now to build flexibility and resilience into our water and sewerage infrastructure. Our approach must include better management of demand, but we will also need substantial new investment in infrastructure so we can capture more water and start to use the supplies we have more efficiently. We need to connect up our water system more effectively so that we can move supplies to areas where they are scarcer. We also need to ensure our drainage system can continue to operate effectively as infrastructure ages and pressure on capacity grows as the population increases.

The White Paper sets out how we will take forward our commitment in the natural environment White Paper to long-term reform of the water abstraction regime. Reform is vital given the challenges of climate change and population growth and the lack of flexibility in the existing regime to deal with them. This will be a complex task, and we will work closely with abstractors and other stakeholders to deliver it. We plan to consult on proposals in 2013, and aim to introduce legislation subsequently, implementing the new regime fully by the mid to late 2020s.

As well as looking to the future, we want to tackle the problems of pollution and over-abstraction affecting our rivers and wetlands currently. We can succeed only by drawing in the enthusiasm and knowledge of those with a clear stake in their local environment. We set out how Government and regulators are already starting to make this happen through new catchment pilots as well as a concerted effort to align advice, incentives and regulatory tools to address diffuse pollution and improve the environment. The White Paper explains how we will extrapolate from around 70 catchment scale pilot projects, and provide intensive support to 25 of them, as a precursor to rolling out this approach across the country.

We know that affordability of water bills is a growing problem for householders, and we want to enable businesses to keep their costs down. We set out our new framework to enable water companies to target more help on those household customers who need it most by introducing company social tariffs.

If bills are to be kept affordable over the longer term, and customers are to receive better service from their water companies, the regulatory framework governing the industry must change. The White Paper sets out how we are helping business customers and public bodies to reduce unnecessary costs by a package of deregulatory reforms to introduce more competition into the water industry. The reforms we propose will provide non-household customers with more choice and open up the market to new entrants, removing the anti-competitive barriers in the existing regime. Our proposals will increase the size of the market to include all non-household customers; remove a restrictive access price mechanism that makes it difficult for new entrants to compete on price and which unduly protects incumbents and replace it with a more transparent wholesale access price regime; increase opportunities for new entrants by extending the regime to cover sewerage services; and introduce changes to the existing regime for upstream competition to encourage new entrants and stimulate the market. We will work with the Scottish Government to enable a cross-border market in water and sewerage services.

As a result, we expect business and public sector customers to receive a range of benefits from more customer-focused suppliers with an incentive to improve the services they offer, such as aggregated purchasing, discounts for direct debits or improved information on how to improve water efficiency and cut costs.

However, we do not propose to introduce more fundamental structural reform of the water industry, for example through mandating legal separation of the retail arm of water companies. Given the challenges we are facing to build resilience in the sector, which will require ongoing investment in infrastructure, I am not proposing to make changes which could reduce the attractiveness of the water sector as a low-risk, stable home for investment.

If we are to deliver our vision for the future of a sustainable and resilient water system we must change the way we all value water. We need to start using water more efficiently, and recognising it as the precious and limited resource it is. We need to build awareness of the connection between water in the home and the condition of local rivers to encourage behaviour change. The White Paper sets out our approach to encouraging more efficient use of water, including through the linkage to the green deal.

The White Paper is available on the DEFRA website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/legislation/whitepaper/

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan (Outcomes of Bonn International Conference)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): On 5 December, Germany hosted and Afghanistan chaired the international Afghanistan conference in Bonn, entitled "Afghanistan and the International Community: From Transition to the Transformation Decade". The UK, together with over 100 international delegations, reiterated the international community's long-term commitment to Afghanistan. I represented the UK.

The conference conclusions set out a plan for the international community's long-term engagement with Afghanistan beyond 2014. They included commitments to provide economic support to Afghanistan for the decade after 2014, until Afghanistan becomes economically self-sustainable. The conference also agreed to produce a clear plan for the future structure and funding for the Afghan National Security Forces in advance of the NATO Chicago summit next May. In addition the conclusions set out an agreed set of guiding principles for the reconciliation process and its outcomes. This builds on the recent Traditional Loya Jirga in Afghanistan with support for an inclusive, representative peace process.

The Afghan Government committed themselves to make further progress on key development priorities, including governance, anti-corruption and rule of law. The Afghan Government also promised to uphold all their international human rights obligations and to protect women's rights as enshrined in the constitution.

I reinforced the UK's long-term commitment to Afghanistan and the aims of the international community post-2014 including development aid and support for the ANSF. I welcomed the political and economic framework agreed at the conference and the importance of regional engagement, building on the successful Istanbul conference in November. I reaffirmed our support for the Afghan Government in upholding human rights, including women's rights.

President Karzai was due to visit London immediately after the Bonn conference to sign the UK's own long-term partnership agreement with Afghanistan. President Karzai had to cancel his visit to the UK because of the tragic sectarian attacks in Afghanistan on 6 December. We had planned to sign the enduring partnership with President Karzai during his visit to London. Instead, we will sign this partnership in the near future. I condemn this attack and the terrorist attacks of 7 December that resulted in the loss of many innocent lives. While we strongly condemn such atrocities, these acts of terrorism will not undermine the commitments made at the Bonn conference by the UK and the international community. We will continue to build on these commitments to see the emergence of a stable and secure Afghanistan where the rights of individuals are respected.

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): The health part of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council met on 2 December in Brussels. Andy Lebrecht, Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Union, represented the United Kingdom .

Council conclusions were adopted on:

closing the gap in health between member states through action on determinants of health, especially nutrition and physical activity;

non-communicable diseases: prevention and control of respiratory diseases in children; and

prevention and control of communication disorders in children, including innovative approaches to treatment.

The Commission provided an update on the health for growth programme and the presidency asked member states to comment on the priorities for the programme. The Commission underlined that the programme would focus on areas where the EU could genuinely add value, in particular, ensuring a smarter investment in health.

The UK welcomed the intention of the proposed programme, but indicated a preference for it to be brought forward as a decision rather than a regulation. A number of member states also emphasised that the programme should respect the principle of subsidiarity, particularly in relation to the health system elements.

The Commission gave an update on the suggestion of splitting the pharmacovigilance provisions from the Commission's recently published information to patients proposals. It confirmed it would positively pursue this approach.

In addition, Denmark spoke about the plans for its presidency. It confirmed the intention to focus on innovation in health, anti-microbial resistance, and chronic disease (taking diabetes as a model).

Winterbourne View

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): I promised to update the House about ongoing activity in relation to Winterbourne View private hospital.

The House will wish to note that 10 people employed at Winterbourne View have now been charged with offences of ill-treatment and neglect under the Mental Health Act. They are due to appear in Bristol magistrates court on 15 December. A further three people who have also been arrested on suspicion of causing ill-treatment under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 remain on police bail pending inquiries.

PricewaterhouseCooper's report on Castlebeck Care services was published on 25 November and Castlebeck has committed to taking forward all the action points from that report. The report can be found at:

www.castlebeck.com/docs/pwc_recommendations_report.pdf

In October, I advised the House that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) had started its programme of unannounced inspections of services for people with learning disabilities. This review is now well under way—as at 2 December some 76 inspections had been completed. CQC is also carrying out around 1,000 inspections a month which include undertaking inspections where there are concerns that providers may not be meeting the essential safety and quality requirements

The first five reports from the focused learning disability inspections have been published today and can be found at www.cqc.org.uk/ldreview. We will, of course, ensure that the NHS and local authorities are continuing to take action required to address any concerns raised and review their own commissioning, care planning and oversight arrangements to support improvements and service transformation.

The results of the CQC inspections programme will feed into the wider departmental review of Winterbourne View. We are still gathering evidence from the serious case review and the NHS serious untoward incident review, and from other investigations and reports.

The departmental review is actively engaging with people with learning disabilities or autism and challenging behaviour and their families about how services can be improved. Ministers will report findings from the departmental review to Parliament and determine what further action is necessary.

I will continue to update the House as things develop.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Advancing Transgender Equality

The Minister for Equalities (Lynne Featherstone): At the very heart of the coalition Government is a commitment to fairness and equality. Celebrating the diversity of the UK and enabling all to be able to play their full part will lead to a strong society which values all of its citizens. The UK has a record to be proud of in advancing equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people but we must not be complacent. We know that challenges still exist and we need to take bolder actions to deal with these issues. Too many transgender people still face outdated prejudice at every stage of their lives, from discrimination in the workplace to tragic incidents of hate crime. This not only blights people's lives, but undermines the principles upon which this country prides itself. This Government are committed to addressing these issues and advancing transgender equality.

In March 2011, the Government published "Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality: Moving Forward", which included cross-Government commitments to tear down barriers and advanced equal opportunities for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in all areas of society—including in schools, at work and in healthcare.

This document recognised that transgender people face distinct and specific challenges that sometimes need to be addressed separately.

Today we are publishing "Advancing Transgender Equality: A Plan for Action", which builds on our programme of work to tackle outdated prejudices and ensure equal chances for everyone whatever their gender identity. It shows a real commitment across Government to take concerted action to tear down barriers to equal opportunities and to build a fairer society. This document also mirrors the aims of the Government's "The Equality Strategy—Building a Fairer Britain" which aims to address inequality in social mobility, tackling deprivation, developing a fair and flexible labour market, promoting greater participation and opening up public services, and changing culture and attitudes.

Copies of the action plan have been placed in the House Library and will also be available on the Home Office website: http://homeoffice.gov.uk/equalities/

G6 Meeting (Paris)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The informal G6 group of Ministers of the Interior from France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Poland and the UK held their most recent meeting in Paris on 1 December under the French presidency of the group. The meeting was chaired by the French Interior Minister Claude Guéant. The meeting was divided into two working sessions which were attended by the G6 Ministers of the Interior. Additional guests included the US Attorney-General, Eric Holder; the US Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, and European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström.

The first working session of G6 Ministers and the Commission considered Schengen governance, asylum and itinerant (mobile) criminality. Delegates agreed on the need for a stronger political governance of the Schengen area that would preserve the achievement of the border-free zone while retaining the necessary safeguards. G6 Ministers agreed that member states should retain the possibility of re-imposing internal border controls in the event of a major failure of the external border or a large, unexpected migratory pressure. They called for an early warning mechanism to alert Schengen states in this regard, as well as a strengthening of the Schengen evaluation mechanism. On asylum, the meeting recognised the need for the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) to provide those member states taking part in it with the tools and procedures to respond quickly and effectively to asylum claims. Delegates noted the European Council's desire to conclude the CEAS negotiations in 2012, and as far as possible before the end of Denmark's EU presidency. I underlined the need to deal with asylum cases as swiftly as possible and to ensure that decisions were made properly to distinguish between those claims that were genuine and those that were not. On itinerant criminality, Ministers discussed the need to direct more effectively existing EU resources, such as Europol and Eurojust, to tackle the threat of mobile organised crime groups. I raised the issue of metal theft which affects G6 countries as well as the UK.

The second session, including the US representatives, focused on the recovery of criminal assets and transatlantic data sharing. Delegates discussed the ongoing difficulties associated with recovering the proceeds of organised crime, and agreed on the need for greater international co-operation and more robust asset recovery procedures. The US Attorney-General underlined the importance of civil procedures in asset recovery. I emphasised that financial investigation skills and techniques were not an addition but rather an essential part of the wider armoury of techniques required to investigate criminality. Delegates then discussed the progress of negotiations around the EU-US PNR and EU-US data protection agreements.

In addition to the two plenary sessions, I spoke about the preparations under way for the 2012 Olympic games, and presented the UK's plans to reform the European Court of Human Rights under our chairmanship of the Council of Europe. I also held separate bilateral meetings with some of the other heads of delegation to discuss a range of issues including extradition, illegal migration, passenger name records and data protection. The next meeting of the G6 is expected to be held in Germany in June.

Provisional Police Funding Announcement

The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice (Nick Herbert): I have today placed in the Library my proposals for the aggregate amount of grant to police authorities (referred to in the report as the police core settlement) in England and Wales for 2012-13, for the approval of the House. The indications I gave last year for revenue funding in 2012-13 have remained unchanged and are set out in table 3.

Today the Department for Communities and Local Government also published proposals for the distribution of formula grant to English local authorities for 2012-13. The Welsh Government will shortly be setting out their proposals for the allocation of funding in 2012-13 for the four police authorities in Wales.

Overall police settlement

As set out in the Chancellor's autumn statement on 29 November, public sector pay awards win average at 1% for the last two years of the spending review period. As a result, the Home Office budget will be adjusted in line with this policy. Subject to any recommendations from the police negotiating board and agreement on staff pay, we expect that this policy should also apply to the police. This revision should not reduce the overall revenue spending power of the police service. I will make decisions on damping levels for these years at a later date.

For 2012-13 I have applied damping as previously announced at the time of the spending review.

The total cash reduction in Government funding to the police remains at 5% this year.

I will continue to provide a specific neighbourhood policing fund for 2012-13. This recognises that neighbourhood policing provides a dedicated, consistent and visible presence in communities. From 2013-14 this funding will be rolled into the police main grant, enabling the new directly elected police and crime commissioners to have full discretion over their funding, recognising their accountability to the communities they serve. In London, the Metropolitan Police Authority received autonomy over this funding from 2011-12, in recognition of the role the Mayor of London and the Deputy Mayor, policing already play. That will continue in 2012-13.

I win also continue to provide specific funding for counter terrorism policing and have provided relative protection to this budget throughout the spending review period to ensure that critical national counter terrorism capabilities are maintained. Authorities and forces will receive their specific counter terrorism allocations in January.

In addition to the police core settlement, the Olympic safety and security budget has been prioritised. These provisions are detailed below.

The introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners

During 2012-13 the public will elect their first police and crime commissioners in England and Wales. It is the will of the House that police authorities will be

replaced on the 22 November 2012 with directly elected individuals who will have the statutory duty to deliver an efficient and effective police force, which clearly demonstrates value for money and, above all, delivers policing and community safety services in the local and national interest of the communities within their force area. The precept that police authorities will set for 2012-13, will not be affected by the election of police and crime commissioners in November 2012. Once elected police and crime commissioners will begin to prepare their police and crime plan and budget for 2013-14.

Some £50 million was set aside for 2012-13 to fund the first elections of police and crime commissioners. This £50 million was added to the police settlement for this specific purpose. Additional funding has been set aside now that the 2012 elections are being held in November. The funding of the elections has had no impact on the amount of funding available to forces over the four-year period of PCC office and we expect it to represent no more than 0.15% of annual police funding.

THE POLICE GRANT SETTLEMENT 2012-13

I have set out below how I propose to allocate the police settlement between the different funding streams in 2012-13.

Table 1: Police Revenue Funding – Proposed Figures for 2012-13

	2012-13 £m
Total Formula Funding	
Comprising:	
Home Office Police Main Grant	4,251
National, International and Capital City Grant (MPA/MoPC only)	189
DCLG General Grant	3,213
Of which council tax (11-12) freeze grant	75
WAG General Grant	151
Total Home Office Specific Grants	
Comprising:	
Welsh Top-up	13
Neighbourhood Policing Fund (NPF)	338
Counter Terrorism Specific Grant	564
PCC Elections	50*
PFI Grant	54
Total Government Funding	8,830**
% Cash Change in Total Government Funding	-5%

*Any additional funding required will be provided from outside the police settlement.

**This includes a small amount of funding that will form part of a contingency fund, which is not shown in the table above.

Provisional allocations of these grants (with the exception of counter-terrorism funding) for each force in England and Wales for 2012-13 are set out in table 3.

Neighbourhood Policing Fund

The neighbourhood policing fund specific grant will continue until 2013-14, when directly elected police and crime commissioners will be in place. Funding totalling £338 million in 2012-13 win be made available. Approximately 90% of the grant will be ring-fenced for police and community support officers (PCSOs)—contributing up to 75% of their salary costs. The remaining 25% will need to be match-funded by the police, councils, businesses and other organisations. This does not apply to the Metropolitan Police Authority/Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime which has had full discretion on the spending of this funding from 2011-12. From 2013-14 this fund will be consolidated into police main grant.

Counter Terrorism

Counter-terrorism has been prioritised to ensure that the police will have the necessary resources to respond to the changing demands posed by the terrorist threat. We have allocated £564 million to support counter terrorism policing in 2012-13.

Forces will be notified of their individual allocations in early January. For security reasons, these allocations will not be available in the public domain.

Private Finance Initiatives Grant

Specific funding will be given to cover the costs of police private finance initiative projects which are currently operational. This funding was added to the police settlement for this specific purpose. The Home Office will also support the two police PFI projects that are currently in procurement, and which are not yet operational.

National, International and Capital City Grant

The national, international and capital city grant will be paid to the Metropolitan Police Authority/Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime in 2012-13 when the funding will be £189 million.

Council Tax Freeze

The Government announced a council tax freeze in England for 2011-12 which all police authorities in England accepted. As a result, they are all receiving a grant equivalent to a 2.5% increase in their 2010-11 precept. This grant has been baselined and will continue to be paid to all police authorities in each year of this spending review period.

The Government have recently announced help for local authorities in England, including police authorities, to freeze their council tax for a further year. Police authorities which decide to freeze or reduce their council tax in 2012-13 will receive additional one-off funding, equivalent to raising their 2011-12 precept by 3%.

Council tax referendums

The Localism Act 2011 includes powers, already used, to abolish capping in England and to introduce arrangements for council tax referendums. A referendum will take place if an authority, including a police authority, proposes a percentage increase in council tax that exceeds the level agreed by the House of Commons. These provisions will be implemented for 2012-13 and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, in consultation with the Home Secretary, has today given an indication of the principles he is minded to propose for 2012-13. After considering any representations from authorities he will set out the final principles in a report to the House and seek approval for these in parallel with the final report on the local government finance settlement.

In Wales, council tax capping is the responsibility of Welsh Ministers.

OTHER FUNDING

Police Capital

I am minded to amend the capital allocations for police authorities in order to support the establishment of the National Police Air Service. I will consider carefully any representations on this matter before taking my decision in time for the final settlement debate in February 2012. This change would mean that the proportion of police capital that goes to the NPAS would be increased to £10.8 million in 2012-13—£6 million more than I suggested this time last year. These proposed figures are set out in table 2.

Table 2: Proposed Division of Police Capital Between Funding Streams

	2012-13 £m	*2013-14 £m*	*2014-15 £m*
Capital Grant	118	106	109
National Police Air Service	11	13	10
Special Grant Capital	1	1	1
Total	*130*	*120*	*120*

I still intend to allocate the majority of capital funding directly to police authorities and the Metropolitan Police Authority/Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, who will all receive the same percentage change in funding. I will also continue to maintain a capital contingency. These proposed allocations are set out at table 4.

Olympic Safety and Security

Delivering a safe and secure games remains a priority for the Government. With eight months to go, the policing and wider security programme is progressing well, with many aspects already operational.

The Government announced last year that £600 million will be available for safety and security during the London Olympics in 2012. However, the Government are confident they can deliver this for around £475 million.

Table 3: Provisional Revenue Allocations for England and Wales 2012-13

Police Authority	*HO Core £m*	*NPF £m*	*Welsh Top-up £m*	*WAG £m*	*2012-13 CLG (including CT freeze) £m*
Avon & Somerset	112.7	7.3	0.0	0.0	62.5
Bedfordshire	40.8	2.7	0.0	0.0	28.2
Cambridgeshire	50.0	3.6	0.0	0.0	29.0
Cheshire	64.3	4.8	0.0	0.0	51.6
City of London	30.2	1.3	0.0	0.0	27.3
Cleveland	47.5	2.9	0.0	0.0	44.4
Cumbria	30.5	2.3	0.0	0.0	34.9
Derbyshire	65.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	44.5
Devon & Cornwall	110.5	7.5	0.0	0.0	70.3
Dorset	42.4	3.2	0.0	0.0	21.3
Durham	44.3	3.3	0.0	0.0	42.4
Dyfed-Powys	32.1	1.6	6.3	15.7	0.0
Essex	109.5	7.2	0.0	0.0	63,6
Gloucestershire	36.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	22,2
Greater London Authority	1051.6	101.3	0.0	0.0	854.5

Table 3: Provisional Revenue Allocations for England and Wales 2012-13

Police Authority	*HO Core £m*	*NPF £m*	*Welsh Top-up £m*	*WAG £m*	*2012-13 CLG (including CT freeze) £m*
Greater Manchester	230.2	17.3	0.0	0.0	209.8
Gwent	44.7	2.9	0.0	33.0	0.0
Hampshire	128.1	7.6	0.0	0.0	72.4
Hertfordshire	73.9	5.3	0.0	0.0	43.5
Humberside	69.5	4.7	0.0	0.0	53.3
Kent	109.5	8.0	0.0	0.0	78.8
Lancashire	105.7	8.2	0.0	0.0	89.2
Leicestershire	67.3	4.7	0.0	0.0	46.4
Lincolnshire	39.8	2.9	0.0	0.0	24.2
Merseyside	127.0	9.8	0.0	0,0	127.6
Norfolk	53.7	3.9	0.0	0.0	32.4
North Wales	46.2	3.3	6.5	24.8	0.0
North Yorkshire	43.9	3.4	0.0	0.0	31.3
Northamptonshire	45.2	3.0	0.0	0.0	28.1
Northumbria	115.0	8.9	0.0	0.0	120.1
Nottinghamshire	80.7	5.5	0.0	0.0	54.9
South Wales	92.7	6.7	0.0	77.6	0.0
South Yorkshire	102.7	6.6	0.0	0,0	90.1
Staffordshire	68.6	4.5	0.0	0,0	47.8
Suffolk	42.8	3.1	0.0	0.0	26.5
Surrey	65.0	4.4	0.0	0.0	35.7
Sussex	101,1	7.2	0.0	0.0	64.2
Thames Valley	147.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	87.4
Warwickshire	32.7	2.8	0.0	0.0	19.8
West Mercia	68.6	5.3	0.0	0.0	51.1
West Midlands	252.9	15.9	0.0	0.0	213.5
West Yorkshire	179.3	14.3	0.0	0.0	143.4
Wiltshire	38.7	2.8	0.0	0.0	24.8
Total England and Wales	*4440.1*	*338.0*	*12.8*	*151.0*	*3213.2*

Table 4: Indicative Capital Allocations for England and Wales

Police Authority	*2012-13 £m*	*2013-14 £m*	*2014-15 £m*
Avon & Somerset	2.6	2.3	2.4
Bedfordshire	1.1	1.0	1.0
Cambridgeshire	1.3	1.2	1.2
Cheshire	1.7	1.5	1.5
City of London	0.9	0.8	0.9
Cleveland	1.3	1.2	1.2
Cumbria	0.9	0.8	0.9
Derbyshire	1.6	1.4	1.5
Devon & Cornwall	2.8	2.5	2.6
Dorset	1.1	1.0	1.0
Durham	1.3	1.1	1.2
Dyfed-Powys	0.8	0.7	0.8
Essex	2.4	2.2	2.2
Gloucestershire	1.0	0.9	0.9
Greater Manchester	6.0	5.4	5.5
Gwent	1.2	1.0	1.1

Table 4: Indicative Capital Allocations for England and Wales

Police Authority	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
	£m	*£m*	*£m*
Hampshire	3.0	2.7	2.8
Hertfordshire	1.5	1.4	1.4
Humberside	1.8	1.6	1.7
Kent	2.8	2.5	2.5
Lancashire	2.8	2.5	2.6
Leicestershire	1.8	1.6	1.6
Lincolnshire	1.0	0.9	0.9
Merseyside	3.5	3.1	3.2
Metropolitan	31.3	28.1	29.0
Norfolk	1.4	1.2	1.3
North Wales	1.2	1.1	1.1
North Yorkshire	1.1	1.0	1.0
Northamptonshire	1.1	1.0	1.0
Northumbria	3.3	2.9	3.0
Nottinghamshire	1.9	1.7	1.8
South Wales	2.5	2.3	2.3
South Yorkshire	2.8	2.5	2.6
Staffordshire	1.8	1.6	1.6
Suffolk	1.1	1.0	1.0
Surrey	1.6	1.4	1.5
Sussex	2.3	2.1	2.2
Thames Valley	3.8	3.4	3.5
Warwickshire	1.1	1.0	1.0
West Mercia	1.9	1.7	1.7
West Midlands	6.3	5.7	5.9
West Yorkshire	4.6	4.2	4.3
Wiltshire	1.0	0.9	1.0
Total England and Wales	*118.2*	*106.0*	*109.3*

JUSTICE

Abolition of Committals

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): It is in the interests of victims and witnesses, and of the criminal justice system generally, that court procedures should be made as efficient as possible, for example by cutting out unnecessary court hearings. More than 10 years ago, committal proceedings were abolished in indictable-only offences, and replaced by a new "sending" procedure. The Government have decided that the time has come to complete that reform by extending it to offences triable either way. This will enable the Crown court to manage such cases from an earlier stage, and facilitate efforts to encourage defendants who intend to plead guilty to do so sooner.

The change will be effected by bringing into force schedule 3 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 on a phased basis from April 2012. Following the practice adopted when the existing sending procedure in section 51 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 was first introduced, commencement will initially be limited to certain geographical areas, which will be announced later. Subject to a satisfactory assessment of the first phase, the intention is to complete implementation over the next year.

The Government believe that this reform has the potential to contribute to their aim of reforming and improving the criminal justice system.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Independent Reviewer of the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007 (Annual Report)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): I have arranged for copies of the fourth report of Robert Whalley CB, Independent Reviewer of the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007 (the "2007 Act"), to be laid before Parliament.

This fourth report provides an assessment of the operation of sections 21 to 32 of the 2007 Act and the procedures adopted by the Brigade Commander 38 (Irish) Brigade for receiving, investigating and responding to complaints. The report covers the period 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2011.

The report highlights the continuing security threat posed by residual terrorist groups, the activity of organised criminals and incidents of public disorder. The reviewer comments on the importance of the powers under the 2007 Act in dealing with this broad range of security-related threats, and therefore recommends that the powers be retained for a further year.

The reviewer states that the residual terrorist threat has continued on broadly the same level as 2010, but there have been positive signs of suppression of activity. He notes that the number of persons stopped under the 2007 Act has increased significantly but that overall stop activity by the PSNI has fallen by 36% over the last year. The reviewer welcomes the authorisation procedure for the use of stop-and-search powers which the Government are introducing through the Protection of Freedoms Bill. He comments on the importance of cross-border co-operation and points to the activity by An Garda Siochana, which has led to a number of arrests.

The report also reflects on the regrettable public disorder which we saw in Northern Ireland earlier this year and the attacks on the police, and the subsequent operational need for powers under the 2007 Act, such as stop and question and entry of premises, as part of the police response. The reviewer also acknowledges the significant reduction in complaints to the military over the last year.

The Chief Constable and the Brigade Commander 38 (Irish) Brigade have both welcomed the independent reviewer's report and the recommendations made. I would like to thank Robert Whalley for his work and for the recommendations contained in this report. I will consider them carefully.

TRANSPORT

Court Notification of Drink-Drive Offences

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): In conjunction with my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, the Member

for Huntingdon (Mr Djanogly), I wish to inform the House of serious errors that have been identified in the way in which data on drink drive convictions are shared between the police, courts and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

At the end of last year, I asked the DVLA to review communication between the courts and the DVLA. As a result of these investigations it became clear that the alcohol levels for some drink-driving convictions were either not provided to the DVLA by the courts, or were inconsistent when there was a delay between the court sending the information and the reconciliation of this information by DVLA. These errors have been happening for more than 20 years. As a result, in some cases, driving licences were reissued to individuals whose ban had expired, but without them undergoing legally required medical tests.

As soon as the problem was reported to me in August 2011, DVLA put in place manual checks so that any court notification received at DVLA without an alcohol reading was immediately investigated and no licences were re-issued without the alcohol level being provided. In addition, DVLA have worked to identify cases where information was incomplete in the backlog of data since 1991.

The courts and DVLA are now implementing IT changes which will mean that their systems will not allow cases to be processed at either the courts or DVLA unless valid alcohol readings are provided. Furthermore, new operational guidance has been issued to staff who deal with these cases.

Drivers convicted of drink-driving offences with more than two and a half times the permitted legal alcohol limit are regarded as high-risk offenders (HROs). The law requires that such convicted drivers are required to prove their medical fitness before they can be re-licensed at the end of their disqualification period.

As a result of the review DVLA has undertaken, I was informed that some convicted drivers who should have been treated as HROs have been granted a driving licence at the end of their disqualification on the basis of their own declaration of health, without undertaking the required medical assessment.

In total, 265,225 driver records have been found to be missing the relevant information on alcohol levels. Correct alcohol levels have now been obtained for 50,330 of these. We have identified within this group 3,895 drivers who should have been treated as HROs—and therefore should have undergone a medical assessment—before being granted a licence following their disqualification. These drivers present a potential risk to road safety and are being contacted so that they can undergo a medical assessment immediately. Those who fail to comply, or cannot demonstrate their medical fitness to drive, will lose their entitlement to drive.

The Ministry of Justice, Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service, The Scottish Courts Services and the police are working together urgently to identify the correct alcohol readings for a further 28,830 records. Any further HROs identified from these will also be required to undergo a medical assessment.

We have identified that of the 265,225 cases, some 53,028 relate to convicted drivers who have not yet applied to renew licences. These individuals do not therefore pose an immediate road safety risk. Their records have been blocked to ensure that if they do apply for a licence in future any identified as being HROs will have to undergo the medical assessment before a licence can be issued.

Records retention policy and the time limits set under the terms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, means that it will not be possible to act upon the alcohol readings in the remaining 133,037 cases identified. We cannot therefore say how many of these drivers would have been HROs at the time of their conviction.

It is with great regret that I inform the House that we have identified two cases in 1996 and 2006 where a driver who was issued a licence without first proving their medical fitness to drive, has subsequently caused death while driving under the influence of alcohol. Every death on the road is a tragedy and we have the deepest sympathy for anyone affected by the actions of these drink-drivers. It is not possible to say whether the drivers in these cases would have got their licences back following a medical examination. Every effort is being made to contact the victims' families to inform them and to ensure they receive full and proper support.

I can assure the House that we regard road safety and ensuring convicted drivers are treated correctly as of critical importance. Everything possible will be done to take action, where we are legally able, against those who represent a risk to other road users. The Under-Secretary of State for Justice and I have ensured that immediate action has been taken to deal with this issue and to make sure it does not happen again. I must make clear that this investigation is continuing but due to the complexity of accessing very old court data, final figures will not be known for a number of months.

Bus and Community Transport

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): I am pleased to announce today a £60 million package of bus measures to improve buses and community transport coupled with the £30 million investment to improve the environmental performance of the bus fleet that was announced by the Chancellor in the autumn statement, this is a £90 million boost for our buses.

A new £50 million better bus area fund will provide grants of up to £5 million to a minimum of 10 local authorities working in partnership with local bus operators for them to spend in 2012-13. The aim of the fund is to increase bus patronage in busy urban areas, and the Department's aims of creating growth and cutting carbon.

Authorities wishing to bid for bus funding will be asked to submit bids in February to allow the Department to make awards by the end of March. Detailed bidding guidance will be placed on the departmental website shortly.

To support further the establishment and development of community transport, I am also making available £10 million to be distributed to 76 local authorities in England, outside London, by formula; this is a repeat of the Supporting Community Transport Fund announced in March 2011. Letters will be sent to eligible local authorities in the new year, with details of the timing of payments. This comes on top of the £10 million distributed back in March 2011.

As well as these two new funds, last week the Chancellor announced £25 million of funding for environmental improvement to buses. £20 million of this will be available

to bus operators to help them buy low-carbon emission buses through a further round of the green bus fund, for which detail bidding guidance will be published shortly. The remaining £5 million will allow older buses in London to be retrofitted with pollution-reducing equipment to help deliver air quality improvements in the capital. Together with additional funding from Transport for London, the total amount being committed is £10 million. Not only should this deliver a step change in the environmental performance of buses in the capital, but it will help promote jobs across the UK in the companies that supply clean vehicle technology.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council met on 1 December 2011 in Brussels. I represented the United Kingdom.

There were two negotiations at this Council. In the first negotiation, the presidency secured a general approach on a package of amendments to Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the co-ordination of social security systems. One of the proposals in the package would take UK income support out of the regulations. Some member states expressed concerns at some elements but accepted the package in the spirit of compromise. I intervened to stress that a broader policy debate was required at the political level on mechanisms to prevent benefit tourism.

In the second negotiation, the presidency failed to reach political agreement on extensions of the crisis derogations to the European globalisation adjustment fund. I intervened to state that in our view EGF did not add value and that we could not accept any compromise amendments. A blocking minority which included the United Kingdom held out comfortably during the vote.

There was a policy debate on the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy in the field of employment and social policy. The debate was informed by three papers; the Commission's annual growth survey (including the joint employment report); a set of conclusions on the European semester; and an opinion of the Social Protection Committee on the social impact of the crisis. I intervened to welcome the annual growth survey and emphasised the need for all member states to have a credible and determined approach to fiscal consolidation and, structural reform, including through deeper growth-friendly labour market reforms. I also stressed that it was vital that the EU did not take any counter-productive measures which might actually end up having the effect of reducing employment. I suggested that Ministers bring specific ideas to the February EPSCO for further discussion.

There were progress reports on three topics; minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields); the pregnant workers directive; and the equal treatment of persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Ministers adopted three sets of Council conclusions; ageing as an opportunity for the labour market and the development of social services and community activities; the review of the implementation of the Beijing platform for action; and the follow-up of the first European semester and thematic surveillance in employment and social policies.

The Commission presented a report on the functioning of the transitional arrangements on the free movement of workers from Bulgaria and Romania.

Under any other business the presidency and Commission reported on the first annual convention of the European platform against poverty and social exclusion. The presidency provided information on the legislative proposals in the area of migration (single permit, intra-corporate transfers and seasonal workers) and reported on the informal meeting of Ministers for family and gender equality. The Commission provided an update on the review of the working time directive; the posting of workers directive; and the state of play on the European debate on women on company boards.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 12 December 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Green Investment Bank

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): On 24 May 2011, I made an oral statement setting out the Government's plans for a green investment bank (GIB). I explained that establishing an effective, enduring GIB would be a major undertaking and gave a commitment to update the House on further milestones in future.

The Government have made significant progress towards the establishment of an independent GIB, which will be a key component of the UK's transition to a green economy. As I explained in May, the Government will need to ensure that the GIB complies with state-aid rules. We have had a constructive dialogue with the European Commission and are now in a position to formally notify our proposals. The Government will be seeking a broad remit for the GIB, including approval to make investments on commercial terms across the full spectrum of the green economy. Where we are seeking scope for the GIB to provide finance on state-aided terms, we have developed strong evidence that such aid is necessary in the particular sector concerned and that this will not unduly distort competition or interstate trade.

It will be important that GIB is in a position to be fully operational as soon as possible after state-aid approval. I therefore intend to form the company shortly and to begin the formal recruitment process for the board and senior management team next month, with a view to appointing the chair in spring 2012.

The bank will operate independently from Government, but will agree its strategic priorities with the Government for each spending review period. Subject to approval by the European Commission, we have identified the following priority sectors over the spending review period to 2015-16:

- offshore wind power generation;
- commercial and industrial waste processing and recycling;
- energy from waste generation, including gasification, pyrolysis and anaerobic digestion for the production of heat and/or power;
- non-domestic energy efficiency, including onsite renewable energy generation and heat; and
- support for the green deal.

At least 80% of the funds committed by the bank over the spending review period will be invested in these priority sectors.

As I explained in May, the initial capitalisation of the GIB will be £3 billion. From 2015, the GIB will be given powers to borrow, subject to public sector net debt falling as a percentage of GDP. The GIB will work to a "double bottom line" of both achieving significant environmental impact and making financial returns. Potential investments will be assessed against the following objectives:

Green Impact—Accelerating investment to advance the UK's transition towards a green economy, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions; improving resource efficiency; and protecting and enhancing the natural environment and biodiversity, which includes improving water and air quality, reducing noise pollution and improving land use amenity;

Sound Finances—Deploying capital and expertise as a responsible investor and managing risks to achieve positive portfolio returns and, in so doing, preserving and building its capital base as an institution with enduring green impact; and

Additionality—Operating alongside other market participants in response to market failures, leveraging their capabilities where appropriate, to introduce and mobilise additional investment and achieve green impact.

There has been considerable interest in the location of the GIB, with around 20 locations expressing interest to date. The Government welcome this, and are committed to an open and transparent process for deciding the location of the GIB. I have today published a document setting out details of the process that will be followed and the criteria which I will be taking into account in reaching my decision on location. The document also provides information about the likely structure of the GIB, and explains that it is expected to have between 50 and 70 staff in the period to 2015. Copies of the document have been placed in the House Libraries and will be available to download on the BIS website. I intend to announce my decision on the bank's location in February 2012.

I announced in May that Sir Adrian Montague had agreed to chair an advisory group, comprising independent finance experts, to advise Government on the setting up and strategic direction of the new institution. I appointed nine other members in August, and the group has met three times. Its advice has greatly contributed to the progress made towards establishment of the GIB, particularly in relation to the detailed drafting of the GIB's strategic priorities.

It is, however, clear that, in advance of state-aid approval for the GIB, we need to take immediate action to accelerate private sector investment in the UK's transition to a green economy. I have therefore set up a new team within my Department to drive investment in the UK's green infrastructure from April 2012. The team, which will be called UK Green Investments, will be staffed by finance professionals, whose track records are widely known and respected in the City.

Drawing on funding of £775 million for the next financial year, UKGI will invest up to £100 million in commercial and industrial energy efficiency projects and will stand ready to make major co-investments with private finance in offshore wind projects. UKGI is also seeking managers for up to £100 million to invest in waste projects and is now calling for expressions of interest from experienced fund managers in the waste infrastructure sector.

The Government will make investments during this period under section 8 of the Industrial Development Act 1982. I have established an Investment Committee,

including members of the Industrial Development Advisory Board, to advise me on investment proposals made by UKGI.

DEFENCE

Accommodation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): Following a review into support provided to senior officers, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has disestablished the status of "Official Service Residence" this financial year.

The MOD is committed to identifying efficiencies and savings where possible whilst maintaining essential operational capability. As part of this commitment a comprehensive review into the support provided to senior officers has been conducted and concluded that areas of the business could be improved by simplifying the management of service families accommodation and by harmonising the support provided to senior officers across defence.

In the past, a number of service properties were granted official service residence status if the post held by the occupant involved significant official entertaining duties. This status conferred an enhanced package of furniture, fixtures and furnishings but it has now been discontinued, so service families accommodation is now all managed to the same standard. In addition, the support provided to more senior officers, such as domestic assistance for official hospitality, has been reduced and harmonised across the services. These changes are captured in a new tri-service policy which also revises the rules and regulations in relation to official hospitality.

These measures will ensure that the support provided is appropriate and driven by business need, and they will lead to savings in due course. The properties that were formerly classed as official service residences will no longer form a separate grouping for purposes of management information.

EDUCATION

Pupil Premium 2012-13

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Sarah Teather): I am today confirming the funding available for schools in England in 2012-13, through the pupil premium and what this means in terms of funding per pupil. The pupil premium targets additional money at pupils from the most deprived background to help them achieve their full potential.

In 2012-13 the amount available for the pupil premium will double from £625 million in 2011-12 to £1.25 billion. It will further rise to £2.5 billion by 2014-15.

The Government have decided that eligibility for the pupil premium in 2012-13 will be extended to pupils who have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point in the last six years. Earlier this year we consulted on options for extending the coverage of the pupil premium. As a group, children who have been eligible for FSM at any point in time have consistently lower educational attainment than those who have never been eligible for FSM. Up to £50 million of the £1.25 billion will be used to support a summer school programme to help the most disadvantaged pupils make the transition from primary to secondary school. This approach received the highest support with 44% of those responding backing its introduction.

Increasing overall funding for the premium next year to £1.25 billion will enable the coverage of the premium to be extended to a further 500,000 million pupils, while at the same time increasing the level of the premium from £488 to £600 per pupil. This will ensure that a higher proportion of underachieving children are able to benefit from the extra funding provided through the premium.

Schools will have the freedom to spend the premium, which is additional to the underlying schools budget, in a way they think will best support the raising of attainment for the most vulnerable pupils.

We urge schools and local authorities to encourage parents to register their child as eligible for free school meals so that each school receives their maximum pupil premium entitlement.

To ensure transparency and accountability, schools will be required from September 2012 to publish online information about how they have used their pupil premium allocations. New measures will be included in the performance tables that will capture the attainment of pupils covered by the pupil premium.

We will continue to provide the pupil premium for children in care who have been looked after for more than six months, recognising that they need additional support to help them raise their educational achievement.

We will also continue to provide a premium for children of parents in the armed services, who face particular challenges. The level of this service child premium will be £250 in 2012-13, up from £200 in 2011-12.

Annex A

Accompanying documents

These products can be found online at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding

Example pupil premium allocations using the Ever 6 indicator applied to the January 2011 school census.

Review of Teachers' Standards

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): Sally Coates is today submitting to me the second and final report of her independent review of teachers' standards.

I established the review in March this year. Chaired by Mrs Coates, principal of Burlington Danes Academy, it brought together leading head teachers, teachers and other educational experts. The review was tasked with establishing new standards that are clear, unequivocal and easy to use, and which can support teachers' professional development and performance management.

The review's first report, submitted to me on 14 July 2011[1], recommended that a single new set of teachers' standards should be established to replace the existing standards for qualified teacher status and the core

professional standards. I accepted those recommendations, and the new teachers' standards will come into effect in September 2012[2].

The Government welcomed Mrs Coates's recommendations to establish streamlined new teachers' standards that set out very clearly and concisely the elements of high-quality teaching that should be expected of every teacher. The new standards place a welcome emphasis on the importance of good subject knowledge, behaviour management, and meeting the needs of pupils of all abilities and aptitudes. We are committed to raising the quality of teaching in all our schools, so that pupils and their parents can be confident that they are receiving the highest quality education. Clear and rigorous standards play an important role in ensuring that high quality of teaching that all should expect.

The review's second report is now recommending that the existing post-threshold, excellent teacher and advanced skills teacher standards should be discontinued as standards. Further, the review recommends that a new master teacher standard should be introduced to define the characteristics of the most effective classroom teachers.

We welcome the proposal to establish a new standard that identifies and recognises those teachers who are demonstrating excellent practice in the classroom, and who are making the most significant positive impact on their pupils. The proposal of a single master teacher standard has the potential to bring much greater simplicity and clarity to what is at present a complex and highly bureaucratic system of standards.

My Department will now take forward further work to explore the implications of discontinuing the current post-threshold, excellent teacher and advanced skills teacher standards. This will include asking the school teachers' review body to consider the implications for teachers' pay.

The first and final reports of the review are published on the Department for Education's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/reviewofstandards

Copies of both reports, and of my correspondence with Mrs Coates, have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

[1]http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/r/first%20report%20-%2012%20july%202011.pdf

[2]http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/l/letter%20from%20michael%20gove%20to%20sally%20coates.pdf

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Council (19 December 2011)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I will represent the UK at the Environment Council in Brussels on 19 December.

At this Council, the presidency will seek the adoption of Council conclusions on the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020: towards implementation; and on the road map to a resource efficient Europe.

Ministers will exchange views on the outcome of the 17th session of the conference of the parties to the United Nations framework convention on climate change and the 7th session of the meeting of the parties to the Kyoto protocol in Durban, 28 November to 9 December 2011.

Ministers will also hear progress reports on: a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals (recast); a proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 1999/32/EC as regards the sulphur content of marine fuels; and a proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances.

The following topics will be covered under "any other business", either via a report or presentation from the Commission, presidency, or a member state:

- Convention on migratory species;
- Preparing a global legally binding instrument on mercury;
- Preparatory meetings for Rio+20;
- "Planning for biodiversity";
- EU eastern partnership countries' co-operation in climate policy;
- Restriction or prohibition of genetically modified organisms;
- Protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians;
- Priority substances in water policy;
- Programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE);
- Monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions relevant to climate change at a national and European Union-level;
- Fuel quality directive;
- Implementation of regulation on fluorinated greenhouse gases;
- EU steps to reduce plastic carrier bag usage;
- Establishing a common European industrial risk sharing facility;
- Solution for a green economy;
- Emissions trading scheme/aviation;
- Combating desertification;
- Control of trans-boundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal;
- REACH and the candidate list of substances of very high concern;
- Annual growth survey;
- Work programme of incoming presidency.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs Council (5 December 2011)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): I attended the General Affairs Council (GAC) in Brussels on 5 December.

The GAC was chaired by the EU presidency, Mikolaj Dowgielewicz, Secretary of State for European Affairs of Poland. A provisional report of the meeting and all conclusions adopted can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/126578.pdf.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

In a public session, Ministers noted the presidency's report on MFF which can be found at:

http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st17/st17448-re01.en11.pdf.

The incoming Danish presidency undertook to take forward this work with the aim of adopting the MFF by the end of 2012.

Preparation for the December European Council

Ministers discussed preparations for the December European Council with the President of the Council, Herman Van Rompuy.

On the eurozone, I and others stressed the need for increased transparency and full interaction between the 17 eurozone members and the 10 non-members.

During discussions on Council conclusions, I set out UK views on energy and made proposals for references to our shared concerns about the regime in Iran.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister will report to Parliament after he has attended the European Council on 8-9 December.

Commission Work Programme for 2012

The Commissioner for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration, Maros Sefcovic, presented the Commission's work programme for 2012 (see following link). The report cites restoring the EU's economy as its top priority.

http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st17/st17394.en11.pdf.

Annual Growth Survey

Commissioner Sefcovic also outlined key elements of the 2012 annual growth survey (see following link). The incoming EU presidency, Denmark, added that they would hold a series of bilateral discussions with member states on the report in January 2012.

http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st17/st17229.en11.pdf.

Enlargement

In its conclusions (see link at the beginning of this statement) the Council reiterated the importance of the enlargement process in generating far-reaching political and economic reform and securing stability and democracy; and looked forward to developing a new approach towards those negotiating chapters dealing with judiciary and fundamental rights and justice, freedom and security, tackling them early in the enlargement process. The Council welcomed Turkey's continued commitment to the negotiation process and the political reform agenda, and, with strong support from me, positively noted the Commission's proposal for a positive agenda with Turkey in support of negotiations. The Council welcomed the successful completion of accession negotiations with Croatia, while also highlighting the need for continued efforts to reform further where necessary, and looked forward to the signature of the accession treaty in the margins of the December European Council.

On the western Balkans, I reiterated the UK's strong commitment to the future of all countries of the western Balkans being in the EU once the required conditions are met. Discussion was particularly focused on Serbia and Kosovo. On Serbia, the Council agreed that progress on Serbia's relationship with Kosovo was the key criterion for movement on their EU path. A decision on Serbia's candidate status would be taken at the December European Council. The Council also agreed further tangible steps towards Kosovo's EU future. The Council took note of the progress Montenegro has made towards opening accession negotiations, which would also be considered at the December European Council.

European Court of Justice

The presidency made a short presentation on the state of play regarding proposals to improve the efficiency of the Court.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Pre-Council Statement

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The Justice and Home Affairs Council is due to be held on the 13 and 14 December in Brussels. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice, the Scottish Solicitor-General, (Lesley Thomson) and I will attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed.

The Council will begin in mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (non-EU Schengen states). There will be an update, supported by a written report, on the Commission-led project to implement the central element of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II); the UK will continue to reiterate its support for the continuation of the current SIS II project.

There will also be a state of play on certain issues regarding the draft regulation amending Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 which lists the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement. The UK is not bound by this regulation as we do not participate in the migration aspects of the Schengen acquis.

The presidency will invite an exchange of views by member states on the EU response to increased migration pressures. This item builds on discussions at the last two Councils; it will include combating illegal migration in the context of migration flows from the south-east (including the Greek-Turkish border) and the southern Mediterranean. The UK supports increased efforts to combat illegal flows across the external border and within the EU, including closer co-operation between Frontex, the European Asylum Support Office and Europol. We believe this should be linked to further work "upstream" in countries of origin and transit, using the tools of the EU's global approach to migration, as well as joint efforts to combat the abuse of free movement.

Over lunch the presidency will seek a steer from Ministers on the key issues blocking negotiations regarding Schengen governance, namely the choice of legal base for the Schengen evaluation mechanism and the role the Commission should play in taking decisions to reintroduce border controls.

In both mixed Committee and main Committee there will be a presentation by the Commission and first exchange of views on proposals for new JHA funding

programmes under the multi-annual financial framework (MFF) 2014-2020. The package includes a communication and proposals for four regulations establishing a new internal security fund and the asylum migration fund (AMF). While the Government welcome the flexibility and potential efficiency that will be offered from merging the six existing funding programmes into two programmes, we are concerned about the size of the overall budget proposed by the Commission. We will also need to consider our participation under the JHA opt-in arrangements.

The presidency will seek support for its proposal on a process for early warning, preparedness and management of asylum crises. Instead of a clause allowing transfers under the Dublin regulation to be suspended, the proposal would envisage a provision in the Dublin regulation requiring member states to provide data about their asylum system to the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and for action plans to be drawn up if it appears that their systems may be facing difficulties. The Government can support this in principle provided the action plans are drawn up by the member states themselves, acting through EASO, and not by the Commission.

The Commission will then present its proposals on the global approach to migration and mobility. The current global approach provides the overarching framework for much of the EU's work with third-country partners on migration. The UK welcomes the Commission's proposals for a renewed global approach, which should provide additional opportunities to work in conjunction with EU and international partners on migration, including combating illegal immigration. While we welcome a more comprehensive global approach, it is essential that it remains non-binding, and allows member states to decide on participation in various initiatives on a case-by-case basis. The Government will continue to ensure that any participation is compatible with the UK's immigration policy.

The presidency may attempt to secure agreement on the date for the removal of controls on Bulgaria and Romania's sea and air borders with countries in the Schengen area. This is dependent on the outcome of discussions at the European Council on 9 December. The UK will not have a vote at this Council on this issue as it concerns borders elements in which we do not participate.

The Council will be presented with a package of counter-terrorism (CT) items covering the EU action plan on combating terrorism, the EU CT strategy and the report on the implementation of the strategy on terrorist financing. The UK welcomes the work that is being done at an EU-level to mitigate the terrorist threat, in particular the work around data-sharing and aligning internal and external CT activities. It will be important moving forward that the member states stay focused on the implementation of the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) and air cargo security action plans.

The presidency will want to adopt the Council decision and to sign the EU-US passenger name records (PNR) agreement, which was published on 24 November. The agreement will provide an unequivocal basis in EU law for the transfer of PNR data by EU-based carriers to the US Department of Homeland Security. The Government support this proposal and have agreed to waive our treaty rights to three months consideration of opt in so that the Council can proceed without us. However, the text remains subject to scrutiny in Parliament and we have therefore not exercised our opt-in in order to give the Committees an opportunity to consider the agreement.

There will be a discussion on cross-border itinerant criminality. The issue of "mobile itinerant organised crime groups" was identified as one of the eight EU crime priorities for 2012-13 and is being addressed as one of eight projects under the EU policy cycle (on tackling organised crime), being overseen by the Standing Committee on operational co-operation on internal security (COSI). The UK has decided not to participate in this project at this time as the UK does not focus on itinerant criminals as a distinct group ("itinerant groups" do not feature in the UK threat assessment as we consider all organised crime by crime-type and threat area).

The Justice day will begin with the presidency seeking to obtain general agreement on the provisions of the proposed regulation on succession and wills. As the UK has not opted in to this proposal it will not participate in any vote on these guidelines.

The presidency will also be looking to reach agreement on certain elements of the proposal to modify the regulation on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters (Brussels I). The regulation lays down rules governing the jurisdiction of courts and the recognition and enforcement of cross-border judgments in civil and commercial matters in the member states. The Government opted-in to the proposal in March.

Next there will be a debate of specific issues of the regulation on a EU common sales law. This proposal was presented at the October JHA Council where the Commission confirmed it would offer an alternative contract law regime that would form part of the law of each member state but would not harmonise national contract law systems.

The Council will discuss the European Investigation Order (EIO). The EIO is a draft directive aimed at streamlining the process of mutual legal assistance between participating EU countries. The UK has opted in. The presidency will be seeking to reach a general approach (agreement) on the EIO. A partial general approach to articles 1-18 was achieved at the June JHA Council. There have been significant improvements to the original draft of the EIO and we are considering our position in relation to the current text. The EIO also remains subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

There will then be a debate on the draft directive on establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. The presidency will be looking to agree a general approach and a scrutiny waiver has been granted by both Houses.

The presidency will then provide an update regarding the draft directive on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and on the right to communicate upon arrest. This is the third proposal on the EU's criminal procedural rights road map which sets minimum standards for the rights of the defence. This presidency also gave an update on this directive at the October JHA Council.

Next, the Commission will present proposals for two new funding programmes in the area of justice, rights and citizenship for the period 2014-2020. These are to replace the existing funding programmes in the current fundamental rights and justice framework. The overall objectives of the proposed justice programme are to promote judicial co-operation in civil and criminal matters, facilitate access to justice and to prevent and reduce drug supply and demand, while the objective of the rights and citizenship programme is to contribute to the creation of an area where the rights set out in the treaty on the functioning of the European Union, and in the charter of fundamental rights are promoted and protected.

Finally, the presidency will be providing a state of play update to Council on the negotiations on EU accession to ECHR. The negotiating mandate was agreed at the JHA Council in June 2010, and a draft version of an accession agreement was produced by experts with knowledge of the convention system in June 2011. This is now subject to further consideration.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bereavement Benefit (Public Consultation)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): One of the key tasks that the Government have faced over the past year and a half has been to fundamentally reassess the role the welfare system should play in the 21st century.

We recognise that spousal bereavement is a life-changing event. Emotionally, socially, economically, bereaved people face the task of re-establishing themselves and adjusting to their new circumstances. We know that this journey varies considerably according to personal circumstance, with people drawing on a wide range of support mechanisms to get them through. Bereavement benefits form an important part of the state safety net at this time.

But these benefits have fallen outside the recent reviews of the wider welfare system. Indeed, they have rarely undergone any kind of critical scrutiny to establish whether they provide effective support after the loss of a spouse or civil partner.

To address this we are today publishing a consultation paper on the future of bereavement benefits. We are seeking views on how in the future these payments should support those of working age who suffer the loss of a husband, wife or civil partner. We are aware we need to strike a balance between providing appropriate support at a critical time, while encouraging those of working age to support themselves and their families through employment when they feel able to do so.

Payments made under the war pensions scheme or armed forces compensation scheme will not be affected by this review. The review will not impact those already in receipt of bereavement benefits at the point at which a new scheme is introduced.

A copy of the document will be available in the Vote Office later today.

Further details will be available on the Department for Work and Pensions website at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2011/bereavement-benefit.shtml.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Security Benefits Uprating

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am pleased to announce the proposed social security benefits rates for 2012, which are set out in the table below. The annual up-rating of benefits will take place for state pensions and most other benefits in the first full week of the tax year. In 2012, this will be the week beginning 9 April. A corresponding provision will be made in Northern Ireland.

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2011*	*Rates 2012*
ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE		
higher rate	73.60	77.45
lower rate	49.30	51.85
BEREAVEMENT BENEFIT		
Bereavement payment (lump sum)	2000.00	2000.00
Widowed parent's allowance	100.70	105.95
Bereavement Allowance		
standard rate	100.70	105.95
age-related		
age 54	93.65	98.53
53	86.60	91.12
52	79.55	83.70
51	72.50	76.28
50	65.46	68.87
49	58.41	61.45
48	51.36	54.03
47	44.31	46.62
46	37.26	39.20
45	30.21	31.79
CAPITAL LIMITS—*rules common to Income Support, Income* BASED *Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit unless stated otherwise*		
upper limit	16000.00	16000.00
upper limit - Pension Credit guarantee credit and those getting Housing Benefit /Council Tax Benefit and Pension Credit guarantee credit	No limit	No limit
Amount disregarded - all benefits except Pension Credit and Housing Benefit and Council Tax benefit for those above the qualifying age for Guarantee Credit	6000.00	6000.00
Amount disregarded - Pension Credit and Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit for those above the qualifying age for Pension Credit	10000.00	10000.00
child disregard (not Pension Credit or Employment and Support Allowance)	3000.00	3000.00
amount disregarded (living in RC/NH)	10000.00	10000.00

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2011*	*Rates 2012*
Tariff income		
£1 for every £250, or part thereof, between the amount of capital disregarded and the capital upper limit		
Tariff income - Pension Credit and HB/CTB where claimant/ partner is over Guarantee Credit qualifying age		
£1 for every £500, or part thereof, between the amount of capital disregarded and capital upper limit		
CARER'S ALLOWANCE	55.55	58.45
COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT		
Personal allowances		
Single		
18 to 24	53.45	56.25
25 or over	67.50	71.00
entitled to main phase ESA	67.50	71.00
lone parent	67.50	71.00
Couple	105.95	111.45
dependent children	62.33	64.99
Pensioner		
Single/lone parent has attained the qualifying age for Pension Credit but under 65.	137.35	142.70
couple - one or both has attained the qualifying age for Pension Credit but both under 65	209.70	217.90
single/lone parent - 65 and over	157.90	161.25
couple - one or both 65 and over	236.80	241.65
Premiums		
Family	17.40	17.40
family (lone parent rate)	22.20	22.20
Disability		
Single	28.85	30.35
Couple	41.10	43.25
enhanced disability		
Single	14.05	14.80
disabled child	21.63	22.89
Couple	20.25	21.30
severe disability		
Single	55.30	58.20
couple (lower rate)	55.30	58.20
couple (higher rate)	110.60	116.40
disabled child	53.62	56.63
Carer	31.00	32.60
ESA components		
work-related activity	26.75	28.15
Support	32.35	34.05
Alternative maximum Council Tax Benefit		
second adult on IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) or Pension Credit	25% of Council Tax	25% of Council Tax
first adult(s) student(s)	100% of Council Tax	100% of Council Tax
second adult's gross income :		
-under £180.00	15% of Council Tax	15% of Council Tax
-£180.00 to £234.99	7.5% of Council Tax	7.5% of Council Tax
DEDUCTIONS—*rules common to Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit and Council tax benefit unless stated otherwise*		
Non-dependant deductions from housing benefit and from IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) and Pension Credit		
aged 25 and over in receipt of IS and JSA(IB), in receipt of main phase ESA(IR), aged 18 or over, not in remunerative work	9.40	11.45
aged 18 or over and in remunerative work		
- gross income: less than £124.00	9.40	11.45
- gross income: £124 to £182.99	21.55	26.25
- gross income: £183 to £237.99	29.60	36.10
- gross income: £238 to £315.99	48.45	59.05
- gross income: £316 to £393.99	55.20	67.25
- gross income: £394 and above	60.60	73.85
Non-dependant deductions from council tax benefit		
aged 18 or over and in remunerative work		
- gross income: £394 or more	8.60	9.90
- gross income: £316 - £393.99	7.20	8.25
- gross income: £183 - £315.99	5.70	6.55
- gross income less than £183	2.85	3.30
others, aged 18 or over	2.85	3.30
Deductions from housing benefit		
Service charges for fuel		
Heating	21.55	25.50
hot water	2.50	2.95
Lighting	1.75	2.05
Cooking	2.50	2.95

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2011*	*Rates 2012*
Amount ineligible for meals		
three or more meals a day		
single claimant	24.05	25.30
each person in family aged 16 or over	24.05	25.30
each child under 16	12.15	12.80
less than three meals a day		
single claimant	16.00	16.85
each person in family aged 16 or over	16.00	16.85
each child under 16	8.05	8.45
breakfast only - claimant and each member of the family	2.95	3.10
Amount for personal expenses (not HB/CTB)	22.60	23.25
Third party deductions from IS, JSA(IB), ESA(IR) and Pension Credit for;		
arrears of housing, fuel and water costs council tax etc. and deductions for ELDS and ILS.	3.40	3.55
child support, contribution towards maintenance (CTM)		
standard deduction	6.80	7.10
lower deduction	3.40	3.55
arrears of Community Charge		
court order against claimant	3.40	3.55
court order against couple	5.30	5.60
fine or compensation order		
standard rate	5.00	5.00
lower rate	3.40	3.55
Maximum deduction rates for recovery of overpayments (not CTB/ JSA(C)/ESA(C))		
ordinary overpayments	10.20	10.65
where claimant convicted of fraud	13.60	17.75
Deductions from JSA(C) and ESA (C)		
Arrears of Comm. Charge, Council Tax, fines & overpayment recovery		
Age 16-24	17.81	18.75
Age 25 +	22.50	23.66
Max. dedn for arrears of Child Maintenance (CTM)		
Age 16-24	17.81	18.75
Age 25 +	22.50	23.66
DEPENDENCY INCREASES		
Adult dependency increases for spouse or person looking after children —payable with;		
State Pension on own insurance (Cat A or B)	58.80	61.85
long term Incapacity Benefit ISCS Group 13 Type 5	54.75	57.60
Severe Disablement Allowance	32.90	34.60
Carers Allowance	32.70	34.40
short-term Incapacity Benefit (over state pension age)	52.70	55.45
short-term Incapacity Benefit (under State Pension age)	42.65	44.85
Child Dependency Increases - payable with;		
State Pension; Widowed Mothers/ Parents Allowance;	11.35	11.35
short-term Incapacity benefit—higher rate or over state pension age; long-term Incapacity Benefit; Carer's Allowance; Severe Disablement Allowance; Industrial Death Benefit (higher rate);		
NB—The rate of child dependency increase is adjusted where it is payable for the eldest child for whom child benefit is also paid. The weekly rate in such cases is reduced by the difference (less £3.65) between the ChB rates for the eldest and subsequent children.	8.10	8.10
DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE		
Care Component		
Highest	73.60	77.45
Middle	49.30	51.85
Lowest	19.55	20.55
Mobility Component		
Higher	51.40	54.05
Lower	19.55	20.55
DISREGARDS		
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit		
Earnings disregards		
standard (single claimant)	5.00	5.00
Couple	10.00	10.00
higher (special occupations/ circumstances)	20.00	20.00
lone parent	25.00	25.00
childcare charges	175.00	175.00
childcare charges (2 or more children)	300.00	300.00
permitted work higher	95.00	97.50
permitted work lower	20.00	20.00

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2011*	*Rates 2012*
Other Income disregards		
adult maintenance disregard	15.00	15.00
war disablement pension and war widows pension	10.00	10.00
widowed mothers/parents allowance	15.00	15.00
Armed Forces Compensation Scheme	10.00	10.00
student loan	10.00	10.00
student's covenanted income	5.00	5.00
Income from boarders (plus 50% of the balance)	20.00	20.00
additional earnings disregard	17.10	17.10
Income from subtenants (£20 fixed from April 08)	20.00	20.00
Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance and Pension Credit		
Earnings disregards		
standard (single claimant)	5.00	5.00
Couple	10.00	10.00
higher (special occupations/ circumstances)	20.00	20.00
Other Income disregards		
war disablement pension and war widows pension	10.00	10.00
widowed mothers/parents allowance	10.00	10.00
Armed Forces Compensation Scheme	10.00	10.00
student loan (not Pension Credit)	10.00	10.00
student's covenanted income (not Pension Credit)	5.00	5.00
Income from boarders (plus 50% of the balance)	20.00	20.00
Income from subtenants (£20 fixed from April 08)	20.00	20.00
EARNINGS RULES		
Carers Allowance	100.00	100.00
Limit of earnings from councillor's allowance	95.00	97.50
Permitted work earnings limit – higher	95.00	97.50
- lower	20.00	20.00
Industrial injuries unemployability supplement permitted earnings level (annual amount)	4940.00	5070.00
Earnings level at which adult dependency (ADI) increases are Affected with:		
short-term incapacity benefit where claimant is		
(a) under state pension age	42.65	44.85
(b) over state pension age	52.70	55.45
state pension, long term incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, unemployability supplement - payable when dependant		
(a) is living with claimant	67.50	71.00
(b) still qualifies for the tapered earnings rule	45.09	45.09
Earnings level at which ADI is affected when dependent is not living with claimant;		
state pension.	58.80	61.85
long-term incapacity benefit.	54.75	57.60
unemployability supplement.	55.55	58.45
severe disablement allowance	32.90	34.60
Carers allowance	32.70	34.40
Earnings level at which child dependency increases are affected		
for first child	205.00	215.00
additional amount for each subsequent child	27.00	28.00
Pension income threshold for incapacity benefit	85.00	85.00
Pension income threshold for contributory Employment Support Allowance	85.00	85.00
EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE		
Personal Allowances		
Single		
under 25	53.45	56.25
25 or over	67.50	71.00
lone parent		
under 18	53.45	56.25
18 or over	67.50	71.00
Couple		
both under 18	53.45	56.25
both under 18 with child	80.75	84.95
both under 18 (main phase)	67.50	71.00
both under 18 with child (main phase)	105.95	111.45
one 18 or over, one under 18 (certain conditions apply)	105.95	111.45
both over 18	105.95	111.45
claimant under 25, partner under 18	53.45	56.25
claimant 25 or over, partner under 18	67.50	71.00

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2011*	*Rates 2012*
claimant (main phase), partner under 18	67.50	71.00
Premiums		
enhanced disability		
Single	14.05	14.80
Couple	20.25	21.30
severe disability		
Single	55.30	58.20
couple (lower rate)	55.30	58.20
couple (higher rate)	110.60	116.40
Carer	31.00	32.60
Pensioner		
single with WRAC	43.10	*43.55*
single with support component	37.50	*37.65*
single with no component	69.85	*71.70*
couple with WRAC	77.00	*78.30*
couple with support component	71.40	*72.40*
couple with no component	103.75	*106.45*
Components		
Work-related activity	26.75	*28.15*
Support	32.35	*34.05*
HOUSING BENEFIT		
Personal allowances		
Single		
Under 25	53.45	*56.25*
25 or over	67.50	*71.00*
entitled to main phase ESA	67.50	*71.00*
lone parent		
Under 18	53.45	*56.25*
18 or over	67.50	*71.00*
entitled to main phase ESA	67.50	*71.00*
Couple		
both under 18	80.75	*84.95*
one or both 18 or over	105.95	*111.45*
claimant entitled to main phase ESA	105.95	*111.45*
dependent children	62.33	*64.99*
Pensioner		
single/lone parent has attained the qualifying age for Pension Credit but under 65.	137.35	*142.70*
Couple—one or both has attained the qualifying age for Pension Credit but both under 65	209.70	*217.90*
single / lone parent—65 and over	157.90	*161.25*
Couple—one or both 65 and over	236.80	*241.65*
Premiums		
Family	17.40	*17.40*
Family (lone parent rate)	22.20	*22.20*
Disability		
Single	28.85	*30.35*
Couple	41.10	*43.25*
Enhanced disability		
Single	14.05	*14.80*
disabled child	21.63	*22.89*
Couple	20.25	*21.30*
Severe disability		
Single	55.30	*58.20*
Couple (lower rate)	55.30	*58.20*
Couple (higher rate)	110.60	*116.40*
disabled child	53.62	*56.63*
Carer	31.00	*32.60*
ESA components		
work-related activity	26.75	*28.15*
Support	32.35	*34.05*
INCAPACITY BENEFIT		
Long-term Incapacity Benefit	94.25	*99.15*
Short-term Incapacity Benefit (under state pension age)		
lower rate	71.10	*74.80*
higher rate	84.15	*88.55*
Short-term Incapacity Benefit (over state pension age)		
lower rate	90.45	*95.15*
higher rate	94.25	*99.15*
Increase of Long-term Incapacity Benefit for age		
higher rate	13.80	*11.70*
lower rate	5.60	*5.90*
Invalidity Allowance (Transitional)		
Higher rate	13.80	*11.70*
middle rate	7.10	*5.90*
lower rate	5.60	*5.90*

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2011*	*Rates 2012*
INCOME SUPPORT		
Personal Allowances		
Single		
under 25	53.45	*56.25*
25 or over	67.50	*71.00*
lone parent		
under 18	53.45	*56.25*
18 or over	67.50	*71.00*
Couple		
both under 18	53.45	*56.25*
both under 18—higher rate	80.75	*84.95*
one under 18, one under 25	53.45	*56.25*
one under 18, one 25 and over	67.50	*71.00*
both 18 or over	105.95	*111.45*
dependent children	62.33	*64.99*
Premiums		
family / lone parent	17.40	*17.40*
pensioner (applies to couples only)	103.75	*106.45*
Disability		
Single	28.85	*30.35*
Couple	41.10	*43.25*
enhanced disability		
Single	14.05	*14.80*
disabled child	21.63	*22.89*
Couple	20.25	*21.30*
severe disability		
Single	55.30	*58.20*
couple (lower rate)	55.30	*58.20*
couple (higher rate)	110.60	*116.40*
disabled child	53.62	*56.63*
Carer	31.00	*32.60*
Relevant sum for strikers	36.00	*38.00*
INDUSTRIAL DEATH BENEFIT		
Widow's pension		
higher rate	102.15	*107.45*
lower rate	30.65	*32.24*
Widower's pension	102.15	*107.45*

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2011*	*Rates 2012*
INDUSTRIAL INJURIES DISABLEMENT BENEFIT		
18 and over, or under 18 with dependants		
100%	150.30	*158.10*
90%	135,27	*142.29*
80%	120.24	*126.48*
70%	105.21	*110.67*
60%	90.18	*94.86*
50%	75.15	*79.05*
40%	60.12	*63.24*
30%	45.09	*47.43*
20%	30.06	*31.62*
Under 18		
100%	92.10	*96.90*
90%	82.89	*87.21*
80%	73.68	*77.52*
70%	64.47	*67.83*
60%	55.26	*58.14*
50%	46.05	*48.45*
40%	36.84	*38.76*
30%	27.63	*29.07*
20%	18.42	*19.38*
Maximum life gratuity (lump sum)	9980.00	*10500.00*
Unemployability Supplement	92.90	*97.75*
increase for early incapacity		
higher rate	19.25	*20.25*
middle rate	12.40	*13.00*
lower rate	6.20	*6.50*
Maximum reduced earnings allowance	60.12	*63.24*
Maximum retirement allowance	15.03	*15.81*
Constant attendance allowance		
exceptional rate	120.40	*126.60*
intermediate rate	90.30	*94.95*
normal maximum rate	60.20	*63.30*
part-time rate	30.10	*31.65*
Exceptionally severe disablement allowance	60.20	*63.30*
JOBSEEKER'S ALLOWANCE		
Contribution-based JSA— Personal rates		
under 25	53.45	*56.25*
25 or over	67.50	*71.00*
Income-based JSA— personal allowances		
under 25	53.45	*56.25*

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2011*	*Rates 2012*
25 or over	67.50	*71.00*
lone parent		
under 18	53.45	*56.25*
18 or over	67.50	*71.00*
Couple		
both under 18	53.45	*56.25*
both under 18—higher rate	80.75	*84.95*
one under 18, one under 25	53.45	*56.25*
one under 18, one 25 and over	67.50	*71.00*
both 18 or over	105.95	*111.45*
dependent children	62.33	*64.99*
Premiums		
family / lone parent	17.40	*17.40*
Pensioner		
Single	69.85	*71.70*
Couple	103.75	*106.45*
Disability		
Single	28.85	*30.35*
Couple	41.10	*43.25*
enhanced disability		
Single	14.05	*14.80*
disabled child	21.63	*22.89*
Couple	20.25	*21.30*
severe disability		
Single	55.30	*58.20*
couple (lower rate)	55.30	*58.20*
couple (higher rate)	110.60	*116.40*
disabled child	53.62	*56.63*
Carer	31.00	*32.60*
Prescribed sum for strikers	36.00	*38.00*
MATERNITY ALLOWANCE		
Standard rate	128.73	*135.45*
MA threshold	30.00	*30.00*
PENSION CREDIT		
Standard minimum guarantee		
Single	137.35	*142.70*
Couple	209.70	*217.90*

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2011*	*Rates 2012*
Additional amount for severe disability		
Single	55.30	*58.20*
couple (one qualifies)	55.30	*58.20*
couple (both qualify)	110.60	*116.40*
Additional amount for carers	31.00	*32.60*
Savings credit		
threshold—single	103.15	*111.80*
threshold—couple	164.55	*178.35*
maximum—single	20.52	*18.54*
maximum—couple	27.09	*23.73*
Amount for claimant and first spouse in polygamous marriage	209.70	*217.90*
Additional amount for additional spouse	72.35	*75.20*
Non-State Pensions (for Pension Credit purposes)		
Statutory minimum increase to non-state pensions	Increase by:	*5.20%*
PNEUMOCONIOSIS, BYSSINOSIS, AND MISCELLANEOUS DISEASES SCHEME AND THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (SUPPLEMENTATION)		
Total disablement allowance and major incapacity		
allowance (maximum)	150.30	*158.10*
Partial disablement allowance	55.55	*58.45*
Unemployability supplement	92.90	*97.75*
increases for early incapacity -		
higher rate	19.25	*20.25*
middle rate	12.40	*13.00*
lower rate	6.20	*6.50*
Constant attendance allowance		
exceptional rate	120.40	*126.60*
intermediate rate	90.30	*94.95*
normal maximum rate	60.20	*63.30*
part-time rate	30.10	*31.65*
Exceptionally severe disablement allowance	60.20	*63.30*
Lesser incapacity allowance		
maximum rate of allowance	55.55	*58.45*
based on loss of earnings over	73.60	*77.45*
SEVERE DISABLEMENT ALLOWANCE		
Basic rate	62.95	*69.00*

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2011*	*Rates 2012*
Age-related addition (from Dec 90)		
Higher rate	13.80	*11.70*
Middle rate	7.10	*5.90*
Lower rate	5.60	*5.90*
STATE PENSION		
Category A or B	102.15	*107.45*
Category B (lower)—spouse or civil partner's insurance	61.20	*64.40*
Category C or D—non-contributory	61.20	*64.40*
Additional pension	Increase by:	*5.20%*
Increments to:-		
Basic pension	Increase by:	*5.20%*
Additional pension	Increase by:	*5.20%*
Graduated Retirement Benefit (GRB)	Increase by:	*5.20%*
Inheritable lump sum	Increase by:	*5.20%*
Contracted-out Deduction from AP in respect of pre-April 1988 contracted-out earnings	Nil	*Nil*
Contracted-out Deduction from AP in respect of contracted-out earnings from April 1988 to 1997	Increase by:	*3.00%*
Graduated Retirement Benefit (unit)	0.1189	*0.1251*
Increase of long-term incapacity for age	Increase by:	*5.20%*
Addition at age 80	0.25	*0.25*
Increase of long-term incapacity for age		
higher rate	19.25	*20.25*
lower rate	9.65	*10.15*
Invalidity Allowance (Transitional) for State Pension recipients		
higher rate	19.25	*20.25*
middle rate	12.40	*13.00*
lower rate	6.20	*6.50*

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*Rates 2011*	*Rates 2012*
STATUTORY ADOPTION PAY		
Earnings threshold	102.00	*107.00*
Standard Rate	128.73	*135.45*
STATUTORY MATERNITY PAY		
Earnings threshold	102.00	*107.00*
Standard rate	128.73	*135.45*
STATUTORY PATERNITY PAY		
Earnings threshold	102.00	*107.00*
Standard Rate	128.73	*135.45*
ADDITIONAL STATUTORY PATERNITY PAY		
Earnings threshold	102.00	*107.00*
Standard Rate	128.73	*135.45*
STATUTORY SICK PAY		
Earnings threshold	102.00	*107.00*
Standard rate	81.60	*85.85*
WIDOW'S BENEFIT		
Widowed mother's allowance	100.70	*105.95*
Widow's pension		
standard rate	100.70	*105.95*
age-related		
age 54 (49)	93.65	*98.53*
53 (48)	86.60	*91.12*
52 (47)	79.55	*83.70*
51 (46)	72.50	*76.28*
50 (45)	65.46	*68.87*
49 (44)	58.41	*61.45*
48 (43)	51.36	*54.03*
47 (42)	44.31	*46.62*
46 (41)	37.26	*39.20*
45 (40)	30.21	*31.79*
Note: For deaths occurring before 11 April 1988 refer to age-points shown in brackets.		

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 13 December 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

EU Competitiveness Council

The Minister for Universities and Science (Mr David Willetts): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Baroness Wilcox, has today made the following statement:

The EU Competitiveness Council took place in Brussels on 5 and 6 December 2011. I represented the UK on internal market and industry issues on 5 December, and the Minister of State for Universities and Science, represented the UK on research issues on 6 December. A summary of those discussions follows.

The main internal market and industry issues discussed on 5 December were: patents; industrial policy; business competitiveness; impact assessment in the Council; results of the single market forum; customs co-operation; and companies registers. Additionally, there was a lunchtime discussion regarding patents.

A lengthy discussion on patents failed to conclude after the presidency presented a compromise proposal on political aspects of the draft Court agreement. The proposal included the seats of different bodies, principles of financing, an extended transitional period during which users of the Court could continue to use the existing litigation arrangements for European (non-unitary) patents, and greater opportunities to bring infringement cases directly to the central division. Discussions continue and the presidency is planning an initialling ceremony on 22 December, if agreement can be reached.

The Council agreed conclusions on industrial policy without discussion. The Council also took note of a presentation by the Commission on a proposal for a competitiveness and SME (small and medium-sized enterprise) programme 2014-2020.

On impact assessment in the Council, the presidency introduced draft conclusions, recalling the recent Court of Auditors report on impact assessment, the inter-institutional agreement on better law-making and the recent Council conclusions adopted by ECOFIN on impacts of legislation. The UK and other member states stressed the need for the Council to act quickly to translate agreements into practice. The conclusions were adopted.

Conclusions from the single market forum were also adopted, which responded to the outputs of the single market forum held in Warsaw. I did not intervene, but other member states did both to congratulate the Polish presidency on hosting the event and to push for the "professional card" idea, likely to feature in forthcoming proposals on professional qualifications.

Conclusions were also adopted on a further substantive agenda item regarding customs co-operation with eastern neighbouring countries. The presidency and the Commission stressed that co-operation on the eastern border was a priority to facilitate trade and ensure safety of EU citizens.

The final substantive agenda item was regarding interconnection of business registers. The Council agreed a general approach on a directive that will facilitate the interconnection of business registers across the EU. The presidency proposed a Council statement as drafted by Germany to clarify concerns from some member states. This was agreed.

There were also a substantial number of AoB items on the agenda. Of note were the discussions on REACH and services of general economic interest. I intervened in both cases.

The Czech and Slovak delegations presented a paper on EU chemicals legislation (REACH) emphasising the need to focus on the original principles of REACH relating to smart regulation and the "think small first" principle. I supported the paper, and questioned the Commission's intention to set a numerical target for the candidate list.

Some member states had written to the Commission to criticise a number of elements in the services of general economic interest package. The Commissioner, Alumnia, defended the proposals. I defended the importance of controls on state aid which are instrumental in ensuring a level playing field for competition and promoting competitiveness, as well as the overall thrust of the Commission's package.

Other AoB items that were covered included: the state of European shipbuilding; European standardisation; results from the European tourism forum; the lead markets initiative; Horizon 2020; the annual growth survey; customs enforcement of intellectual property rights; the single market and services directive states of implementation; European observatory on counterfeiting and piracy; protection of orphan works; the consumer marker scoreboard; alternative and online dispute resolution; and the consumer programme.

The Danish delegation also reported on the Work programme of their incoming presidency.

The main research items discussed on 6 December were: Horizon 2020; joint programming initiatives regarding "healthy and productive seas", "urban Europe", "connecting climate knowledge for Europe", "water challenges for a changing world", and "the microbial challenge"; partnering in research and innovation; and a Council resolution on space orientations.

The primary discussion concerned Horizon 2020, the EU's research funding programme for the period 2014-20. The UK supported the package. We, along with other member states argued that the international thermonuclear experimental reactor (ITER) and global monitoring for the environment and security (GMES) programmes should be included in the multi-annual financial framework (MFF) proposal.

The Council adopted conclusions on joint programming initiatives and on partnering in research and innovation without comment.

Day two also covered several AoB items. These were: framework programme of the European atomic energy community for nuclear research and training activities; cohesion policy; plan for the European innovation partnership on active and healthy ageing; information about the Budapest declaration on agricultural research; and report of the informal ministerial expert group on simplification.

Future of the High Street

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): Together with the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, I would like to inform the House that Mary Portas has today presented the Government with a report presenting the findings of her independent review of the high streets, and recommendations for action.

This timely report is published alongside new Government commissioned research, "Understanding High Street Performance", which shows that although some high streets continue to thrive, a third are degenerating or failing, and by 2014 less than 40% of retail spending will be on the high street.

In May, with town centre vacancy rates doubling in the space of two years, the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister asked Mary to look into how we can create more prosperous and diverse high streets.

The report sets out Mary's recommendations which include:

Free car parking in all town centres and a national league table of the best places to park in England.

Introduction of "Town Teams" made up of landlords, shopkeepers, businesses, local politicians and residents to put in place a visionary management structure to create high streets that people want to use.

Empower successful business improvement districts (BID) to take on more responsibilities and powers and become "Super-BIDs".

A new "community right to try" allowing local people who do not have the means to buy empty property to test co-operative ventures.

Making explicit a presumption in favour of town centre development in the wording of the national planning policy framework.

A new national market day to encourage the talent of the future and bring people into our high streets.

A number of pilots across the country to put the recommendations of the report into practice.

The report is the culmination of six months of diligent inquiry by Mary Portas and we thank her for her hard work.

The Government will respond to the recommendations in the spring.

Copies of the Portas report have been placed in the Library, Vote Office and Printed Paper Office, and an electronic copy is being sent to all MPs.

CABINET OFFICE

Cabinet Committees List

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): Today I am publishing an updated Cabinet Committee list. I have placed a copy of the new list in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire and Rescue National Framework for England

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): I have today published a consultation document on the fire and rescue national framework for England. A statutory requirement under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the consultation sets out our proposed priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities in connection with the discharge of their functions. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library of the House.

The document marks a key milestone in resetting the relationship between fire and rescue authorities and Government. It proposes moving away from Whitehall prescription, enabling fire and rescue authorities to deliver their services in a way that makes sense locally, while continuing to meet the wider needs of national resilience. This includes working collectively with other fire and rescue authorities and collaboratively with a wide range of other organisations to improve public safety and cost-effectiveness.

It sets out the risk that occasionally we may be faced with incidents of such scale or complexity that all available resources could be overwhelmed, even if pooled or reconfigured. Her Majesty's Government retain an over-arching responsibility for defence of the realm, ensuring we are resilient as a nation to such risks but this must be based on and drawn from local capability, expertise, knowledge and leadership. This will be supported by a new strategic governance arrangement in partnership with the fire sector to be developed with key partners alongside the consultation.

This more localist approach builds on the approach of the coalition Government in ending the regionalisation of the fire service and dismantling regional government in England. We have already announced that fire and rescue authorities no longer have to work through regional management boards, and we have stopped the forced regionalisation of fire control rooms through the termination of FireControl.

The Government are continuing to fund the existing national resilience capabilities to build specialist capability to manage fire and rescue related risks, for example: additional, specialist urban search and rescue capability; high volume pumps; mass decontamination equipment; detection, identification and monitoring equipment for chemical, biological and nuclear incidents; and additional command and control capability.

The document builds on existing notable practice by fire and rescue authorities to promote greater accountability to local taxpayers, more partnership working and open data transparency. It proposes high level expectations for fire and rescue authorities to develop arrangements that are effective locally along with a requirement to produce assurance statements and to make comparable performance data available to communities.

I am grateful to the national framework partner working group for its assistance in developing this consultation document and look forward to receiving responses from across the fire and rescue sector and more broadly. The consultation closes on 19 March 2012.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Local Television

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt): Today, the Government are publishing their response following two public consultations on a proposed new framework for local TV in the UK. The Government received over 310 responses from interested parties, members of the public and businesses who commented on the proposals or advocated a specific town or city to receive a local TV service. The Government will shortly lay three orders that will put in place the framework to give new powers to Ofcom and to incentivise the market to provide local TV services.

The framework the Government are creating combines market incentives and regulatory mechanisms to provide new local TV opportunities. The outcome will see a new generation of genuinely local TV services broadcast on Freeview (and potentially satellite and cable) across the UK. The Government are providing Ofcom, the

communications regulator, with a power to award a series of local content licences and a multiplex licence for these purposes. Upon enactment of the legislation, the Government expect Ofcom will award a first tranche of 20 local TV content licences in 2012 along with the single multiplex licence. Further licence awards and roll-out to additional locations will follow, depending on market demand and cost viability.

The orders the Government intend to lay in the very near future will do three things: require Ofcom to make available sufficient local spectrum for the purposes of local TV; create new provisions to enable Ofcom to run a fit-for-purpose local licensing award process; and require electronic programme guide providers to give appropriate prominence to the licensed local TV services. In addition, up to £40 million from the television licence fee will be provided to support capital build and content acquisition.

The published Government response lists the principal locations expected to be in the first tranche of licence award and offers further details on how the framework will work in practice.

The Government believe the new local TV services will contribute towards the local democratic process through news and other programming, offering information, reporting and content which will hold institutions and individuals to account; it will provide opportunities for journalism, creative industries and syndication across local media.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Recall of MPs

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): Today the Government have published draft legislation and a White Paper setting out proposals to introduce a power of recall, allowing voters to force a by-election where an MP is found to have engaged in serious wrongdoing and having had a petition calling for a by-election signed by 10% of his or her constituents, as set out in the coalition programme for Government.

These proposals form a key part of our efforts aimed at rebuilding trust in politics, ensuring that politicians are properly accountable to the people they represent.

Currently a Member could commit serious wrongdoing but will only be disqualified if convicted by the courts and sentenced to more than 12 months in prison. Otherwise such a Member may not have to account to their constituents until the next general election.

Key to any recall mechanism is the trigger for a recall petition. Members must not be left vulnerable to attack from those who simply disagree with them or think that they should have voted a different way on a particular measure. Recall should be used to hold to account Members who have not maintained the high standards of behaviour that are rightly expected of elected representatives. Recall should not be used as a way of re-running elections.

The draft Bill provides that a Member should face a recall petition if one of two conditions are met. The first would fill the existing gap in the disqualification regime by providing that where a Member receives a custodial sentence of up to 12 months they will automatically face a recall petition. The second is the House of Commons passing a resolution stating that a Member should face a recall petition. This is designed to supplement the House's existing disciplinary powers, and ensure that MPs who have committed serious wrongdoing which has not resulted in a prison sentence may be recalled, if the wrongdoing is considered to be sufficiently serious. The draft Bill deliberately does not set out the internal procedures of the House of Commons which would lead to such a resolution; such matters fall within the exclusive cognisance of the House. We would hope, however, that the House would put into place procedures based around those which it already has to deal with reports from the Commissioner for Parliamentary Standards.

The draft Bill proposes that the recall petition should be open for signature for eight weeks and will be administered by the local returning officer. The petition may be signed by anyone on the parliamentary electoral register for the relevant constituency, provided that they made their application for registration before the recall petition procedure was started. If, at the end of that period, more than 10% of those on the electoral register have signed the petition, then the Member's seat will be vacated and a by-election will be held. The former Member will be free to stand in the by-election.

There is no precedent for a recall mechanism in the United Kingdom. In bringing forward this draft Bill the Government hope to stimulate a debate on what would be the best model for a recall mechanism.

We are publishing this White Paper and draft Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny, and I am inviting the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee to scrutinise the draft Bill. We will consider the results of this process with great care.

EDUCATION

Education Funding

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): Today I am announcing details of education funding for 2012-13. My announcement includes the dedicated schools grant (DSG), funding for 16-19 education and training and capital funding for maintained schools, academies, the voluntary aided sector and 16-19 provision.

School funding

As set out in the "Consultation on School Funding Reform", issued in July, we will continue with the current methodology for funding schools in 2012-13 through the dedicated schools grant (DSG). The underlying school budget will be kept at flat cash per pupil for 2012-13.

To protect local authorities with falling pupil numbers we will continue with arrangements to ensure that no authority loses more than 2% of its budget in cash terms.

Although the overall schools budget will stay at the same level on a per pupil basis before the addition of the pupil premium, the actual level of each school's

individual budget will vary. It will depend on local decisions about how best to meet needs and priorities. This does mean that some schools will see budget reductions, either because they have fewer pupils or local changes to funding distribution. To protect schools from significant budget reductions, we will continue with a minimum funding guarantee that ensures no school sees more than a 1.5% per pupil reduction in 2012-13 budgets (excluding sixth form funding) compared to 2011-12 and before the pupil premium is added.

Details of these arrangements, including per pupil funding for each local authority, are being sent to local authorities today and have been published on the Department for Education's website.

The "Consultation on School Funding Reform" set out proposals for the funding system from 2013-14. I am grateful to all those who have responded to these important issues. I am publishing today a report on the consultation responses: there was a good deal of consensus around some proposals, such as the factors to include in both any national and local formulae, and the need for careful transitional arrangements. However, the responses also reflect a variety of views over some of the key aspects of the system. We are now working on developing further proposals in the light of the responses.

Funding for 16-19 provision

The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) is today publishing a statement setting out the funding to be made available for 16-19 education and training for 2012-13. The funding statement shows that the Government plan to fund an increased number of places as we approach the raising of the participation age. We plan to fund 1,577,000 places in the 2012-13 academic year compared with the 1,543,000 learners we expect providers to have recruited in 2011-12.

Transitional protection was introduced in 2011-12 in order to help schools and colleges to manage unit cost savings that need to be made. We will continue to provide transitional protection for these policy changes for 2012-13 and will continue to make this available until 2015-16.

Capital funding

Today's capital announcement covers funding for 2012-13 and includes allocations for basic need (funding for additional pupil places), maintenance and devolved formula capital. This is a further one-year allocation. This will enable me to reflect, for subsequent allocations, the rapidly changing situation in local areas on both demographic growth and numbers of schools converting to academy status.

At a national level, overall capital funding remains the same as last year—£800 million to address the shortage in pupil places and £1.4 billion for maintenance, including £200 million for devolved formula capital. I have agreed however to change the methodology for allocating funding for pupil places to better reflect local need.

Funding for pupil places needs to take account of the capacity of schools. For this reason, I have agreed that basic need allocations for 2012-13 will be decided using both numbers on roll and capacity data. That is, it combines the two methodologies used in 2011-12 for allocating basic need funding. Moving to this method will result in changes in levels of funding for some local authorities. Because of this, I have introduced a protection so that no local authority will receive, in 2012-13, less than 80% of the funding they would have received had we taken the same approach as taken for 2011-12.

This allocation does not include the additional £600 million for basic need allocated to my Department in the autumn statement. I am considering how best to allocate this funding. I will also consider how we can improve the collection of local data on pupil numbers and available school places so that allocations for the remainder of the spending review period are better targeted towards need.

Maintenance funding for local authorities will remain at the same level as last year and will be allocated in the same way. Some local authorities will see a reduction because their maintained schools have converted, or are about to convert, to academy status. Local authorities should take into account the maintenance needs of all maintained provision, including Sure Start centres, when deciding how to prioritise this funding.

I can also confirm the same funding levels for the locally co-ordinated voluntary aided programme (LCVAP) as in 2011-12 and we are taking the same approach to its allocation.

Devolved formula capital will remain at similar levels to last year so that the limited capital available can be more strategically targeted.

We have retained £276 million centrally to meet the maintenance needs of academies. This amount is based on numbers of academies already open and those due to open in the coming months. We expect local authorities to honour any commitments they have made to fund projects in their maintained schools, including where those schools may be intending to become academies during the next year.

The academies central fund next year will be administered in a similar way to this year, and we will provide further details early in 2012 when we are ready to receive applications for funding. We will also consult with sponsors and academy chains to explore options for giving them more flexibility to address the maintenance needs of their whole academy estate.

Capital funding for 16-19 provision

Over £107 million of capital funding will be available in 2012-13 to meet maintenance and building needs of sixth form colleges and demographic pressures for new 16-19 places in schools, academies and sixth form colleges.

Some £59 million of this funding will be allocated to the sixth form college building condition improvement fund (BCIF) in 2012-13 to address priority building condition needs within the sixth form college sector. All sixth form colleges will remain eligible for devolved formula capital (DFC) and it will remain at the same rate as 2011-12.

In addition, I want to ensure that funding is available to meet the need for additional places where there are demographic pressures in schools, academies and sixth form colleges. I have therefore made a further £44 million available in the coming financial year for basic need funding for additional places for 16-19 year old students in these areas. This funding will also support the provision of new places in mainstream settings, including in FE colleges, for students with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The Capital Review

The consultation on the capital review ended in October and I intend to publish a final Government response to their recommendations in January 2012.

The Priority School Building Programme

Finally, I would like to update the House on the latest position on the priority school building programme (PSBP). Partnerships for Schools (PfS) is currently reviewing applications to ensure there is a fair and rigorous selection of schools for admission to the programme. Until applications have been fully assessed, I will not be able to announce which schools will be in the programme. I understand the high level of interest in this programme and expect to be able to make an announcement in the new year.

More details about today's capital allocations are being sent to local authorities and will be published on my Department's website at: www.education.gov.uk.

A list of resources associated with today's announcement can be found at annex A and I shall also make copies available in parliamentary Libraries.

Annex A

Accompanying documents

Dedicated Schools Grant

Dedicated Schools Grant: Technical note for 2012-13

Dedicated Schools Grant calculator

Dedicated Schools Grant Q & A

Work book containing:

A summary of the Guaranteed Units of Funding (GUFs) for 2012-13 for each local authority;

Details about how the GUFs for 2012-13 are calculated;

A flow diagram showing how the 2012-13 GUF allocations are calculated.

These products can be found online at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsrevenuefunding/settlement2013pupilpremium.

Funding Reform

Analysis of consultation responses.

These products can be found online at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=conResults&consultationId=1756&external=no&menu=3.

Capital investment

A table of capital allocations.

A technical note explaining the methodology used to calculate these allocations.

These products can be found online at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/a00200794/schools-capital-allocations-for-2012-13.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Integrity in the Police Service (HMIC Report)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): On 18 July, I informed the House that I was asking Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to consider instances of undue influence, inappropriate contractual arrangements and other abuses of power in police relationships with the media and other parties and to make recommendations as to what needs to be done. I am pleased to tell the House that HMIC have concluded their review and have today published their report: "Without Fear or Favour: a review of police relationships". A copy will be placed in the House Library.

The integrity of the men and women who work in the police service of England and Wales is critical to public trust in policing. Real or perceived conflicts of interest dent that trust and make policing by consent more difficult. The vast majority of police officers behave appropriately and conscientiously and I welcome HMIC's conclusion that corruption is not endemic in the police service. HMIC do however identify a range of integrity issues on which the service is neither robust enough nor consistent in its approach. HMIC found that police force and authority leaders have, on the whole, failed to grasp the importance of integrity and are therefore insufficiently compelling in setting the values and standards that should apply across all aspects of policing, as well as in setting a personal example to their staff.

Where forces and authorities get this right and police officers and staff operate to the highest standards of integrity, it is because of the presence of strong and effective leadership by example, setting both the direction and the tone. I want all forces and authorities to recognise this and to aspire to the standards of the best. I welcome HMIC's work and accept the recommendations they have made. It is now time for all police service leaders to work together urgently and constructively to agree and apply a coherent set of national standards of integrity and behaviour for police officers and staff.

HMIC's findings will be supplemented in the next few months by the work that Elizabeth Filkin has been undertaking in the Metropolitan Police Service and by the view of the Independent Police Complaints Commission as to whether there are further powers necessary to enhance their ability to be able to hold the police service to account. The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) will also be concluding a review next summer into the extent of corruption by organised criminals operating in the public and private sectors, including recommendations for addressing this. The police service's leaders should draw on these, as well as the findings that will emerge next year from the inquiry being led by Lord Justice Leveson. The standards they set need to give the public confidence in the integrity of those who police their communities, and the service's leaders themselves. I will expect a clear set of proposals to be ready for wider consultation by spring 2012.

To support police leaders in this, the Government have been consulting on establishing a national professional body for policing, the scope of which I intend to say more on to this House shortly. This is in addition to legislating to make the inspectorate itself more robust, better equipped to act and to shine an expert light on policing.

I intend to accept the offer made by HMIC to re-visit these issues next October. In doing so, they will be able to offer the public, and the police and crime commissioners who will be elected in November 2012, a clear view as to the effectiveness of the service's leadership on these matters, as well as the progress made towards both operating, and being clearly seen to operate, to the highest standards of integrity.

TRANSPORT

Dartford Crossing Petition (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): On 14 September 2011, the hon. Member for Dartford (Gareth Johnson) presented to the House a petition:

"The Petition of residents of Dartford and readers of the Dartford Messenger newspaper, declares that the Petitioners are opposed to any increase in tolls charged for the Dartford Crossing. The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Department for Transport not to increase tolls on the Dartford Crossing and to reconsider the emergency measures to lift the barriers during severe congestion and extend the local residents discount scheme. And the Petitioners remain, etc". [P000960]

Regrettably, the "Observations by the Secretary of State" published by the Department for Transport on 14 October were incorrect, and related to another petition. The observations should have been as follows:

The Government set out its intention to revise the road user charging regime at the Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing as part of the outcomes of the Government's 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2010.

Subject to consultation, the Government proposed increasing the levels of road user charges in 2011 and 2012, in order to continue the prioritisation of improvements to the Crossing in the short, medium and longer term. The improvements include the suspension of charges at the times when an emergency exists such as severe congestion, the implementation of new, free-flow, charging technology, and the review of options for additional crossing capacity.

The Department for Transport published for consultation the details of its proposed revisions to the road user charging regime on 30 June 2011 and the consultation period closed on 23 September 2011.

The Department recently announced that there will be no increase in charges in November 2011 or April 2012.

The Department is considering the responses made during the consultation, and will consider carefully all the representations made before making any announcements on its conclusions.

The Highways Agency began a six month trial of an operational charge suspension protocol in July 2011, and it will review the effectiveness of the trial following its conclusion in December 2011.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): The DVLA has a long history of providing driver and vehicle licensing support to Great Britain's drivers and motorists and in providing essential services to the police and other agencies to keep our roads safe. But times change and so do the needs of customers. To make sure the DVLA meets those changing needs, I am announcing today the launch of a consultation on a programme of work which will transform the way that the DVLA delivers its services to customers.

This programme will make it easier for motorists to carry out their business with the DVLA. This will be achieved by centralising services and providing much more choice and flexibility around how and when motorists deal with the DVLA. The proposals could deliver significant efficiencies with an estimated £28 million year on year saving.

As a result of these proposals I expect the DVLA to centralise services at its Swansea offices and to deliver those services electronically and in partnership with others. To this end, the DVLA will withdraw from its network of expensive, regionally located offices by the end of 2013. As this proposed centralisation of services is expected to have an impact on resources, the DVLA will now consult staff in these offices and the trade unions on the impact of the changes.

Also, motorists in Northern Ireland currently do not have access to all vehicle services that are available on the mainland, for example, the facility to tax a vehicle online is currently unavailable in NI. As part of this programme, the DVLA will also look to offer the full range of services to motorists in Northern Ireland.

The DVLA will ensure that the motor trade and customers are fully involved in the consultation on the transformation programme and that service delivery will not be adversely affected; rather, the expectation is that for many, services will be enhanced.

I am committed to improving the service all motorists receive while increasing efficiencies. I believe these changes will bring service improvements, better value for money and a faster, more responsive service for customers, while at the same time delivering greater productivity from the DVLA's workforce.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 14 December 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Foreign Affairs Council (Pre-Council Statement)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): The EU Foreign Affairs Council will take place in Geneva on 14 December 2011. The agenda will cover items relating to the eighth World Trade Organisation ministerial meeting to be held in Geneva, 15 to 17 December. I will represent the UK.

The substantive agenda items will be: the position to be taken on the accessions of Russia, Samoa and Montenegro to the World Trade Organisation and mandates for deep and comprehensive free trade agreements (DCFTAs) with the middle eastern and north African (MENA) countries.

The Government's objective for the Council is to support the accessions of Russia and Samoa to the World Trade Organisation and the mandates for DCFTAs with the MENA countries.

TREASURY

Annual European Union Finances Statement

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): I am today laying before Parliament the annual European Union finances "Statement on the 2011 EU budget and measures to combat fraud and financial mismanagement" (Cm 8232). It is the 31st in the series.

The statement gives details of revenue and expenditure in the 2011 EU budget and covers recent developments in EU financial management and measures to counter fraud against the EU budget. It also includes updated details on the UK consolidated statement on the use of EU funds in the UK and changes related to the multi-financial framework.

Looking forward to future years' budgets, and particularly in the current economic and financial climate, the Government remain determined to ensure better value for money in EU budget spending, to oppose unacceptable budget increases, and to push for improvements in EU financial management.

EDUCATION

New Schools

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): I am committed to responding to calls from employers for an education system that develops the future work force with the skills they need. Business leaders say that equipping young people with employability skills—such as punctuality, good communication, reliability and teamworking—should be a top education priority for the Government.

Studio schools offer academic and vocational qualifications, but teach them in a practical and project-based way. Study is combined with paid work placements with local and national employers that are involved in the school.

I am pleased to confirm today that 12 new studio schools have been approved with a view to opening in September 2012:

Bradford International Food and Travel Studio School, Bradford
Da Vinci Studio School of Science and Engineering, Hertfordshire
Discovery Studio School, Stoke-on-Trent
Fulham Enterprise Studio School, Hammersmith and Fulham
Hull Studio School, Hull
Hinckley Studio School, Leicestershire
Hyndburn Studio School, Lancashire
Bournemouth Learning and Achievement Foundation Studio School, Bournemouth
Ockendon Studio School ,Thurrock
Parkside Studio School, Hillingdon
Tendring Studio School, Essex
The Studio, Liverpool

These schools respond directly to the demand of parents, communities and business.

I have approved the very strongest applications today. I fully expect some of the groups that are disappointed today to submit even stronger applications in the future and I encourage them to do so. Indeed, the application process to set up new free schools, university technical colleges and studio schools in 2013 and beyond has already been announced. I want particularly to urge groups to submit applications to set up new schools in areas of deprivation and basic need and where skills shortages are particularly evident.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

UK Oil and Gas Regulatory Scheme (Review)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, in a statement to the House on 14 June 2010, indicated that a review of the regulatory regime for the offshore oil and gas sector would be undertaken. I am pleased today to have deposited in the House the report of that review conducted by a panel under the independent chairmanship of Geoffrey Maitland, Professor of Energy Engineering at Imperial College, London.

The impetus for this exercise was, of course, the disaster which befell the Deepwater Horizon rig during drilling operations in the gulf of Mexico in April 2010. The tragic loss of life and widespread pollution which arose as a consequence of the blow-out on that rig were a salutary reminder to industry and regulators alike of the need for the highest standards of safety and environmental control in this potentially hazardous industry. Inevitably the incident led to a number of both internal and independent investigations in the US which have shed a great deal of light on the causes of the disaster and given rise to recommendations designed to ensure that the risks of a repeat are minimised.

Given the infrequency with which such serious incidents occur in the offshore industry, it is important that we learn all available lessons from them. I am, therefore,

grateful that Professor Maitland and his colleagues have examined the US evidence with obvious rigour and distilled from it such a constructive road map for driving ever higher standards in the UK.

I am pleased to note the report acknowledges as the starting point the strengths of the UK's safety and environmental control regime and the high regard in which the authorities are held both domestically and by international observers. I trust that the industry itself will be reassured to note that the report also acknowledges the extent to which UK operators and industry bodies have mobilised themselves since Deepwater Horizon in an effort to raise those standards. The review has, however, identified a number of important areas, particularly around the assured implementation of regulatory requirements and the promulgation of best practice, where there appears scope for further improvement.

A great many of the insightful recommendations of the report are characterised by the theme of collaboration, whether that be between regulators, among operators or across those boundaries. In this respect, as one of the responses to the Deepwater Horizon incident, a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) has already been signed between DECC and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). I have asked that the joint board, which has been established as a result, provides advice to myself and Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Ministers on the recommendations which are relevant to the regulators. I have also asked my officials to work with HSE and, where relevant, Maritime and Coastguard Agency colleagues in considering with industry the broader recommendations with a view to identifying and embedding the improvements this report suggests are achievable.

I have requested that regulators work with industry to produce an agreed response and action plan by July next year.

HEALTH

Revenue Allocations 2012-13 (Primary Care Trusts)

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): Today I am announcing revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2012-13.

The PCT revenue allocations in 2012-13 will grow at 2.8%, which represents a real-terms increase, taking account of the Office for Budget Responsibility figure for the GDP deflator in 2012-13. This represents continued positive investment in front-line NHS services.

This means total investment in local NHS services in 2012-13 of £91.6 billion, an increase in excess of £2.5 billion in total allocations assigned in 2011-12. It puts the NHS in a strong position to deliver the Government's national priorities set out in the 2012-13 operating framework published on 24 November.

To allow the NHS financial stability during a period of transition, the weighted capitation formula, normally used to determine PCTs fair shares of available resources, has not been applied to the allocations. For 2012-13, all PCTs will receive the same percentage uplift in their recurrent allocations.

This will be the last round of allocations made to PCTs as, subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the NHS Commissioning Board would be responsible for the allocation of resources and pace of change policy to clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) from 2013-14.

In common with previous practice, I have today written to all hon. Members to inform them of the revenue allocations made to the PCTs covered by their constituencies.

Full details of all local allocations, including details of other, specific allocations (to support primary dental care, pharmaceutical services, general ophthalmic services and joint working between health and social care) have been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office. They can also be found at www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/12/pct-allocations.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Domestic Violence

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am launching today a consultation on the cross-Government definition of domestic violence. The consultation will run until 30 March 2012 and a consultation paper is available on the Home Office website. A copy of the consultation document will also be placed in the House Library.

The ambition of this Government is nothing short of ending violence against women and girls. As we set out in our strategic vision—"Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls"—prevention will be key to achieving that ambition. Effective prevention can only happen when it involves all agencies, working together to common goals and common understanding. That is why we are now consulting on a definition of domestic violence that all agencies and all parts of Government should use.

There are a number of aspects to the definition that this consultation considers. We are seeking views on whether the current cross-Government definition of domestic violence is working and should remain. We are also consulting on whether the definition of domestic violence should include younger victims below 18 years of age, including boys, and whether coercive control should also be reflected in the definition.

JUSTICE

Employment Tribunals and the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Fees)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): I have today published a consultation paper on introducing fees in the employment tribunal and the Employment Appeal Tribunal. The introduction of fees to these bodies will relieve pressure

on the taxpayer by transferring some of the cost burden from taxpayers to users. It will also encourage parties to think through whether they might settle their disputes earlier and faster by using other less adversarial methods of dispute resolution, such as ACAS conciliation, which will continue to be provided free to users.

At a time of economic difficulty, I also recognise that Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service provides a vital service to business, and must play its part in the Government's determination to confront the structural barriers that create unnecessary delay or cost to business, or impede competitiveness, employer confidence and the creation of jobs.

These tribunals cost the taxpayer over £84 million per annum and currently no financial contribution is sought from users. The Government think it is right that those who cause the system to be used should contribute towards the cost, in the same way as users of other parts of the justice system contribute to the costs of providing the service. Therefore the principle of charging fees is not in question in this consultation.

The purpose of the consultation exercise is to seek views on two options for a fee charging structure in the employment tribunals and the fee structure proposed for the Employment Appeal Tribunal—all of which incorporate safeguards to protect access to the tribunal for those unable to afford fees.

The consultation closes on the 6 March 2012. For those of you who wish to respond the document is available online, at www.justice.gov.uk.

TRANSPORT

Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I wish to inform the House that the Government have opted in to the Council decision concerning the accession of the European Union to the protocol of 2002 to the Athens convention relating to the carriage of passengers and their luggage by sea, 1974, as regards articles 10 and 11 thereof. The UK notified its intention to the Council and to the Commission that it wishes to accept the measure soon after the Council decision was adopted at Transport Council on 12 December 2011.

The Council decision sets out the basis for the Union's competence in respect of articles 10 and 11 of the 2002 protocol and authorises the Council to conclude the 2002 protocol on behalf of the EU. A separate Council decision relating to the other provisions of the 2002 protocol was adopted in parallel to this decision. The Union has exclusive competence as regards articles 10 and 11 of the 2002 protocol as it affects the jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters in the Union.

The UK has decided to opt in to this Council decision to ensure that it is in a position to ratify the 2002 protocol within the framework of the UN's International Maritime Organisation, as soon as it is ready to do so. The UK must have opted in to the Council decision if the appropriate provisions on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments are to apply.

The UK strongly supports the entry into force of the 2002 protocol because it will significantly enhance the international regime of liability that exists for damage suffered as a result of the death of, or personal injury to, a passenger and the loss of or damage to luggage, by sea—established by the 1974 Athens convention. The 2002 protocol will require shipowners to maintain compulsory insurance up to approximately £250,000 per passenger per voyage to cover liability in respect of the death of and personal injury to passengers on board ships and significantly raise the limits of liability from approximately £46,000 to £400,000 per passenger on each distinct occasion. It will also introduce other mechanisms to assist passengers in obtaining compensation, based on well-accepted principles applied in existing liability and compensation regimes dealing with environmental pollution. These include replacing the fault-based liability system with a strict liability system for shipping-related incidents and introducing the right of direct action against the insurer.

The Union has already adopted EU Regulation 392/2009 on the liability of carriers of passengers by sea which incorporates the 2002 protocol into EU law and ensures the uniform application of the 2002 protocol in the EU from 31 December 2012. It is, however, important that the UK and other EU member states ratify, or accede to, the 2002 protocol to ensure that both instruments apply simultaneously within the EU as soon as possible. Such an approach will greatly simplify the application of Athens regime in the shipping industry.

A copy of this statement has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Local Authority Major Transport Schemes

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): Following the 2010 spending review the Government committed to a £1.5 billion programme of investment in major transport schemes promoted by local authorities, recognising the impact that such schemes can have on growth and the economy.

Our aim was to ensure that the programme of investment for the spending review period would be affordable, would promote growth and would achieve better value for money for the taxpayer. All local authority promoters with schemes already in the pipeline were challenged to improve their scheme design, reduce costs and secure a greater proportion of funding from local sources.

In February 2011 we confirmed funding for the first nine of these schemes and announced an expanded development pool of 45 schemes that would be considered in more detail.

The local authority promoters of the development pool schemes were invited to submit revised funding bids in September 2011. Funding for 20 of these schemes was confirmed on 29 November as part of the autumn statement.

I am today announcing funding for a further 21 schemes as follows. These represent a mix of road and public transport schemes across England.

A684 Bedale-Aiskew-Leeming Bar Bypass[1]
Bath Transportation Package
Beverley Integrated Transport Plan
Camborne-Pool-Redruth Transport Package
Chester Road (Birmingham)
Coventry-Nuneaton Rail Upgrade
Croxley Rail Link (Watford)
Darlaston (Walsall)
Elmbridge Transport (Gloucester)
Leeds Inner Relief Road Maintenance
Loughborough Town Centre Transport Scheme
Luton Town Centre Transport Scheme
Morpeth Northern Bypass
North Fringe to Hengrove BRT (Bristol)
Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NNDR)[2]
Nottingham Ring Road
Pennine Reach (East Lanes Rapid Transit)
South Yorkshire Bus Rapid Transit Phase 1 (Sheffield/Rotherham)
Sunderland Strategic Corridor
Weston Package
Worcester Transport Strategy.

[1]The Department has offered North Yorkshire county council a lower level of funding than that applied for. The council has until the end of January 2012 to accept this offer.
[2]Subject to Norfolk county council agreeing to fund a package of sustainable transport measures in Norwich city centre.

This is a major programme of investment. The schemes announced today will cost £854 million with a DFT contribution of up to £586 million in this spending review period and beyond. The total DFT contribution to all 41 schemes will be up to £972 million, compared to the £1.575 billion that was previously requested for these schemes prior to the spending review—a 38% reduction. This means that a far greater number of schemes can go ahead than would otherwise have been the case.

All the schemes announced will now be able to progress towards construction subject to securing any remaining necessary planning and statutory approvals and subject to confirmation of value for money where material changes to the scheme have been proposed.

We are not yet able to make decisions for a further four of the development pool schemes.

In two cases, we have not yet been provided with sufficient evidence to allow us to assess the schemes' value for money. These are the Leeds new generation transport (Trolleybus) and South Essex rapid transit schemes. In these cases the promoters will have until 31 March 2012 to provide the necessary additional information, and we will make decisions within two months of receipt.

The Waverley link road proposed by Rotherham borough council is opposed in its current form by Sheffield city council, whose land is required for the proposed route. We recognise that there is a case for additional transport capacity in this area but the currently proposed scheme does not appear to be deliverable. We are inviting Rotherham to work with Sheffield and other stakeholders and to propose a resolution to the issue by 31 March 2012.

We recognise the critically important role that transport improvements could play in the regeneration of the Bexhill-Hastings area and the economic case underpinning the Bexhill-Hastings link road, though we are also aware of concerns regarding the proposed scheme, including its environmental impact.

Before we take a final decision on the scheme we want to be sure that it offers the best approach for regenerating the area and also to consider other transport options to achieve this, including local trunk roads such as the A21, A259 and local rail. We also want to consider whether further environmental mitigation measures could be deployed to address the impacts of the proposed Bexhill-Hastings scheme.

Over the next three months the Department will work alongside the scheme's promoters and other local and regional partners to gather further evidence on the optimal solution for the area. We would intend to make a decision swiftly thereafter.

Details of each of the schemes and the funding offered by the Government are available on the DFT website and will be followed by a more detailed document setting out the details of our decision-making process, and information on our assessment of the schemes.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 15 December 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

EU General Affairs Council (Pre-Council Statement)

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): The General Affairs Council will take place in Brussels on 16 December 2011. The agenda will cover structural and cohesion funds. I will represent the UK.

The substantive agenda item will be a policy debate on the structural and cohesion funds for 2014-20.The Polish presidency has tabled three questions for discussion: whether the common strategic framework should be approved by the Council and the European Parliament, or adopted solely by the European Commission; whether country-specific recommendations or national reform programmes should provide a linkage between EU2020 goals and the development needs of regions and member states; and whether funds should be ring-fenced for specific objectives. There will also be an informal lunch which will look at whether both negative and positive incentives are necessary to ensure that funds deliver on EU2020 objectives.

The Government's objective for the Council will be to ensure the funds contribute to addressing the priority areas to support growth and are delivered in a way consistent with member state's broader economic strategies.

TREASURY

NICs Holiday Factsheet

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): In line with my commitment during the passage of the National Insurance Contributions Act 2011, I am today placing in the Libraries of both Houses a report on the functioning of the NICs holiday scheme.

The report provides information on: the number of applications received, the number of businesses benefiting in 2010-11, the amount by which they benefited and the number of jobs supported through the NICs holiday. The information is presented by region and constituency where possible. To date, just over 10,000 applications have been made for the scheme.

The holiday was announced in the June 2010 Budget and is designed to encourage the creation of private sector jobs in regions reliant on public sector employment by reducing the cost to new business of employing staff. The holiday exempts qualifying new businesses in eligible regions from up to £5,000 of employer national insurance contributions for each of the first 10 employees hired in the first 12 months of business. This is part of a wider set of policies designed to help businesses and stimulate growth in the regions.

Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): Mr David Anderson QC has completed his first annual report as independent reviewer of terrorist asset-freezing legislation. The report covers the first nine months' operation of the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc. Act 2010 and will be laid before the House today.

The Government are grateful to Mr Anderson for his detailed report and will consider carefully his recommendations. The Government's response to his report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses on or before 15 February 2012.

CABINET OFFICE

Public Bodies Reform

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): The coalition Government made a commitment to review public bodies, with the aim of increasing accountability for actions carried out on behalf of the state. Royal Assent of the Public Bodies Act 2011 marks an important milestone in this process which will allow Departments to get on with the important task of delivering the reforms I announced on 14 October 2010. Today, I am placing in the Library of the House an updated list of proposals for the reform of public bodies and guidance to support the programme of orders that will follow Royal Assent of the Public Bodies Act 2011. Copies will also be available in the Vote Office.

This Government made a presumption that state activity, if needed at all, should be undertaken by bodies that are democratically accountable at either national or local level. A body should only exist as a quango if it meets one of three tests, to which all existing public bodies have been subjected. These tests are:

Does it perform a technical function?

Do its activities require political impartiality?

Does it need to act independently to establish facts?

Some14 months on from my original announcement, we have made strong progress. We now have a legislative mechanism in place to implement current and future proposals for reform. We have announced that cumulative reductions in administrative spending of £2.6 billion will flow from public bodies over the spending review period. Where legislation was not required we have already completed more than half of the abolitions proposed by the 2010 review, and we have already started the process of conducting regular, triennial reviews of all non-departmental public bodies. These triennial reviews will ensure that never again will the quango state be allowed to spiral out of control.

Today I am able to confirm the 31 non-departmental public bodies that Departments have identified for reviews in the first year of the three-year review cycle:

Advisory Committee on Business Appointments, Cabinet Office;

Committee for Standards in Public Life, Cabinet Office;

Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills;

Industrial Development Advisory Board, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills;

Treasure Valuation Committee, Department for Culture, Media and Sport;

Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, Department for Culture, Media and Sport;

Independent Agricultural Appeals Panel, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs;

High Speed 2, Department for Transport;

Industrial Injuries Advisory Council, Department for Work and Pensions;

Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, Department of Energy and Climate Change;

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Energy and Climate Change;

Foreign Compensation Commission, Foreign and Commonwealth Office;

Advisory Committee on the Design of Coins, Medals and Decorations, HM Treasury;

Migration Advisory Committee, Home Office;

Technical Advisory Board, Home Office;

Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees, Ministry of Defence;

Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation, Ministry of Defence;

National Employer Advisory Board, Ministry of Defence; and

Legal Services Board, Ministry of Justice;

Triennial reviews will be based on the success of the methodology applied during the 2010 review of public bodies which looked at whether a function was required and, if it was, whether it should exist at arm's length from Government. Quangos will be required to meet one or more of the three tests listed above.

Triennial reviews will build on this methodology by including a further stage to examine whether the body's control and governance arrangements continue to meet the recognised principles of good corporate governance. As well as an opportunity for continuous improvement the reviews will help departments consider new and more innovative models for delivering services through public bodies.

Once the first tranche of reforms have been delivered, and the process of ongoing triennial reviews is firmly established, the UK public bodies landscape will look radically different and be substantially smaller. We will ultimately have reformed more than half of the 904 public bodies in scope of the 2010 review and the landscape will contain more than 250 fewer public bodies. The landscape will be more accountable, with Ministers taking strategic policy decisions and controlling core costs and releasing the front line to deliver services. Public bodies will no longer be seen as confusing, distant and impenetrable to the public, and Ministers will be clearly and transparently accountable for decisions that should be taken by elected representatives.

The landscape will be smaller, more efficient and will cost less, offering better value for money to the public. Our reforms will also help to realise a power shift away from Whitehall, placing control of the delivery of public services in the hands of people who use them, and contributing to important reforms in health, education and economic growth. Unlike previous attempts to reform the public bodies landscape, our reforms will ensure that public bodies will no longer operate long after their job is complete or continue in a form that is outdated or inefficient. I believe that these reforms will lead to a permanent, and long overdue, shift in the role of public bodies and much clearer lines of accountability.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Troubled Families

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): The coalition Government are committed to turning around the lives of the 120,000 most troubled families in England by the end of this Parliament.

I am working with Cabinet colleagues and local areas to ensure that these families are supported into education and employment, that their crime and antisocial behaviour are tackled, and, that overall costs to the state are reduced. Louise Casey is leading this work for me, as head of a new troubled families team in my Department.

I can announce today that a total of £448 million will be made available from the existing budgets of six Departments to meet this commitment over the next three years. £420 million of this will fund action and interventions in areas across England by local authorities and their partner agencies, and £28 million will be used to boost the Department for Work and Pensions' support for troubled families.

Central to the Government's approach is for local agencies to be to able to clearly identify and focus on their priority families. I am therefore also sending out an estimate of the number of families that should be targeted in each local authority area. I will set clear expectations for results to be achieved with these families, and will use this funding to incentivise local authorities to ensure the lives of these families are turned around, and to give them and their children the opportunity to succeed.

Local authorities will work with their partner agencies to provide focused engagement with each family, and avoid the duplication of effort and resources that has been a feature of so much of the response to these families to date. Delivering this commitment will require the full co-operation of central Government and local government; public sector agencies and voluntary organisations—and the families themselves.

The Government will offer local authorities up to 40% of the cost of intervening in a troubled family, payable primarily on a payment-by-results basis when successful outcomes have been achieved. These successful outcomes will be simple and straightforward: ensuring children are attending school; criminal and antisocial behaviour is reduced, and adults in the family are on the path to employment.

The new programme will also fund an England-wide network of troubled family "trouble-shooters", who will be appointed by local authorities. They will oversee the work undertaken in their area, such as ensuring families are getting appropriate support, and deploying sanctions where necessary.

This small group of families—representing less than 1% of the population—have a huge impact on the well-being of those around them, and cost the public purse an inordinate amount of money: an estimated £9 billion per year, of which £8 billion is taken up merely in reacting to problems as they arise. This is not a cost that we can afford to bear any longer—either financially or in wasted lives.

I am delighted to confirm the coalition's commitment to this vital programme. I will report to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister regularly on the progress of Ms Casey's team and our local partners.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics (Hugh Robertson): A meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council was held on 28-29 November. The UK was represented by the Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, Andy Lebrecht, for the culture and audio-visual section of the Council. The Scottish Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport, Shona Robison MSP, represented the UK for the sport section.

Culture and Audio-visual Section

The Council adopted a decision on the signing of the convention on the legal protection of services based on, or consisting of, conditional access. This convention is an instrument of the Council of Europe which entered into force in 2003 and its regulatory framework is almost identical to the one set out in Council directive 98/84/EC.

The aim of the two legal instruments is to establish legal protection against piracy of technological systems of pay-TV, video-on-demand, etc. They cover both TV and radio broadcasting services and also transmission by internet. After the signature of the convention, the Council will proceed with the proposal for a decision on concluding the convention, which will be sent to the European Parliament with the request for its consent.

Ministers considered that the ratification of the convention by the EU will contribute to raising its profile, encouraging ratification by other countries (only nine countries have so far ratified it, four of which are EU members), and thus extending the legal protection for paid services beyond the borders of the EU. A number of UK TV content providers have stressed the importance of being able to extend the number of countries which co-operate to enforce the legislation on conditional access and thereby to limit piracy in the pay-TV sector. The signing of the convention should support the growth of this important part of the UK digital economy.

The Commission entered two statements to the Council minutes, one regarding the legal base and EU exclusive competence to accede to the convention and another concerning the final clauses of the convention, in particular the voting of amendments and the acceptance of new contracting parties.

The UK supported the adoption of this Council decision but intervened to table a statement at the Council to record its view that, even in the absence of the citation of a legal base in treaty on the functioning of the European Union (TFEU) Title V, the European Union's competence to enter into the JHA obligations, which form a small part of the convention, derives from TFEU Title V and accordingly the UK will be bound by virtue of the fact that it has exercised its opt-in under Protocol No. 21 to the treaty on European Union (TEU).

The Council adopted conclusions on the protection of children in the digital world. The conclusions underline the need to educate children as well as their parents and teachers about how to be safe online. Furthermore, the conclusions also call upon the audio-visual industry to design their services and products so that the protection of minors is fully taken into account. These conclusions were adopted without further discussion.

The Council adopted conclusions on cultural and creative competences and their role in building intellectual capital of Europe. The UK supported the adoption of these conclusions which address the development of synergies between culture and creativity on the one hand, and education, youth, research, business and innovation on the other.

There was a ministerial debate on the contribution of the cultural and creative sectors to growth and job creation, focusing in particular on the need for reliable and comparable statistics at European level to better inform policy making. There was universal acceptance of culture's link to economic growth, as well as the strong need for data in this area. The UK outlined the importance of these sectors to our economy, including exports, and noted that this is an area where Europe has a clear comparative advantage. A number of delegations recalled that as well as economic growth, culture also has a vital role to play in developing social cohesion. A number of member states observed that this work could make a key contribution to the EU 2020 strategy. While there was widespread support for the Commission's approach to improving data measurement, member states stressed that this should be done in a light-touch way by building as far as possible on existing data and mechanisms.

Under Any Other Business, the presidency provided information on the state of play concerning the procedural arrangements for the appointment of the European panel for the European Union action for the European Heritage Label (EEL). The panel will consist of 13 experts, responsible for selecting sites to be awarded the EHL and for their subsequent monitoring. Four of them are to be appointed by the Council for a three-year period. The Commission presented its recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation. The Commission also presented its proposal for the creative Europe programme which is a new support programme for the cultural and creative sectors, bringing together the current culture, MEDIA and MEDIA Mundus programmes. The Danish delegation outlined their priorities for their forthcoming presidency, in particular examining the new creative Europe programme, developing the cultural dialogue with third countries and promoting digitisation.

Sports Section

The Council adopted a resolution on the representation of the EU member states in the foundation board of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the co-ordination of the EU and its member states' positions prior to WADA meetings. The resolution establishes the practical arrangements concerning the participation of the European Union and its member states in the work of WADA, namely the preparation, negotiation and adoption inter alia of rules, standards and guidelines by the agency. The UK's concerns over the wording around the co-ordination process and the presentation of the EU position on anti-doping matters were taken into account during the negotiation of the text and the UK was therefore able to support the adoption of the resolution.

The Council adopted conclusions on the role of voluntary activities in sport in promoting active citizenship. The UK supported the adoption of these conclusions which seek to raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering and improve conditions for the development of voluntary activities in sport.

The Council adopted conclusions on combating match fixing, aiming to foster close co-operation and information sharing between member states, the Commission, the sports world and gambling operators in order to counteract this dangerous trend. The UK supported these Council conclusions which recognise that match fixing is a threat to the very integrity of sport.

The Council held a policy debate on good governance in sport. Autonomy, transparency and responsibility were cited as key elements of good governance, though several member states noted that autonomy should not mean that sports organisations are exempt from law. A number of member states welcomed the contribution that the sub-programme for sport, in the Commission proposal for the "Erasmus for all" programme, will make to tackling match fixing and other threats to sport. The UK welcomed the work on good governance and the upcoming expert group which it will co-chair but stressed that good governance should not be dictated by Government.

Under Any Other Business, the Commission presented its proposal for the Erasmus for all programme, the new EU programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. The UK presented a short promotional film on the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. The Danish delegation presented the incoming presidency's priorities which include examining the sport section of the Erasmus for all programme, combating doping and match fixing, developing good governance issues and enhancing voluntary activities.

Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Edward Vaizey): As part of the Government's commitment to conduct triennial reviews of their non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), I am pleased to announce today the review of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest.

The Reviewing Committee (RCEWA) performs the very important role of advising on the principles which should govern the control of export of objects of cultural interest under the Export Control Act 2002 and on the operation of the export control system generally and advises the Secretary of State on all cases where refusal of an export licence for an object of cultural interest is suggested on grounds of national importance.

The triennial review will build on work undertaken by the Department during the review of public bodies, as part of the spending review and will collate and publish the evidence for the continuing need of the Reviewing Committee as an advisory NDPB.

The review of the RCEWA will be conducted by the Department with the support of a small review group made up of key stakeholders with a direct interest in the export licensing process. It will assess its effectiveness, accountability and efficiency. It will evidence the continuing need for its functions and examine and evaluate alternative delivery options.

The review will clarify the RCEWA's responsibility for advising Ministers and will also clarify the roles and mechanisms for openness, transparency and accountability.

I will inform the House of the outcome of the review.

Treasure Valuation Committee

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Edward Vaizey): As part of the Government's commitment to conduct triennial reviews of their non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), I am pleased to announce today the review of Treasure Valuation Committee.

The Treasure Valuation Committee provides the very important advisory role of recommending to the Secretary of State valuations for the treasure items brought before it and providing advice on the apportionment of any reward for the treasure item.

The triennial review will build on work undertaken by the Department during the review of public bodies, as part of the spending review and will collate and publish the evidence for the continuing need of the Treasure Valuation Committee as an advisory NDPB.

The review of the Treasure Valuation Committee will be conducted by the Department with the support of a review group made up of key stakeholders with a direct interest in the treasure valuation process. It will assess its effectiveness, accountability and efficiency. It will evidence the continuing need for individual functions and examine and evaluate a range of delivery options.

The review will clarify the Treasure Valuation Committee's responsibility advising Ministers and will also clarify the roles and mechanisms for openness, transparency and accountability.

I shall inform the House of the outcome of the review.

DEFENCE

Cyprus

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Philip Hammond): In a written statement on 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 49-50WS, my predecessor, the right hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), informed the House that, further to the strategic defence and security review, a separate review of the British sovereign base areas in Cyprus would be undertaken.

The study has been completed. The Government accept its recommendations and confirms Her Majesty's Government's enduring commitment to the sovereign base areas in Cyprus. The key considerations in affirming this commitment were:

> The sovereign base areas are in a region of geo-political importance and high priority for the United Kingdom's long-term national security interests.
>
> The sovereign base areas provide an adaptable and capable forward mounting base, the utility of which has been amply demonstrated: for example, the basing of RAF aircraft that participated in operations over Libya; the regular deployment of Cyprus-based military personnel to Afghanistan; and the key role played as a logistic hub for operations in Afghanistan.

In addition, the sovereign base areas are expected to make a significant contribution to logistic draw-down from Afghanistan, as well as to wider humanitarian and conflict prevention activities in the region. They also continue to provide excellent training opportunities in this important region.

The strategic defence and security review 2010 emphasised the fundamental importance of an "ability to remain adaptable for the future". The sovereign base areas provide the United Kingdom with a unique contribution to our ability to achieve this goal.

Our military personnel, United Kingdom civilians and locally employed personnel in the sovereign base areas make a major contribution to the national security of the United Kingdom and will continue to do so in the future. In administering the sovereign base areas, the United Kingdom will continue to have as its main objectives—the effective use of the areas as military bases, maintenance of a constructive and co-operative relationship with the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, and protection of the interests of those resident or working in the areas.

RAF Scampton

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey): I wish to inform the House of the latest position regarding the future basing requirements for the RAF aerobatic team (RAFAT) known as the Red Arrows and of the RAF's air surveillance and control system (ASACS) units.

The previous Administration announced on 21 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 23-24WS, that subject to trade union consultation, the RAFAT would in future operate from RAF Waddington, rather than RAF Scampton by 31 July 2011, although they would continue to use the dedicated airspace above RAF Scampton to enable training for their acrobatic displays.

The previous Administration announced on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 25-26WS, the relocation of two air surveillance and control system satellite units. Number 1 Air Control Centre at RAF Kirton-in-Lindsey and the Control and Reporting Centre at RAF Scampton, to RAF Coningsby by the end of 2014.

The strategic defence and security review (SDSR) considered a range of constraints on defence basing plans—the available estate, funding provision, plans already in train and the operational commitments of forces. In the light of the changes resulting from the SDSR, and against the background of the budgetary pressures defence faces, I have concluded that it makes sense to review the planned moves of the RAFAT and the control and reporting centre. In the meantime both units remain at RAF Scampton.

No 1 Air Control Centre has now merged and collocated with the Control and Reporting Centre at RAF Scampton and RAF Kirton-in-Lindsey will be closed by the end of March 2012, other than some service families accommodation and a combined mess for personnel at RAF Scampton.

The RAF will now consider future basing options for both the RAFAT and the ASACS units and make recommendations on options to deliver operational effectiveness and value for money. This will include recommendations on whether RAF Scampton should draw-down by 2014 as previously announced. This work is expected to complete in 2012 and I will report the outcome to Parliament at that time.

Service and civilian personnel at RAF Scampton will be briefed on the progress of this work; we will also engage with the trade union.

London 2012 Olympics

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Philip Hammond): The Government have agreed that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) will support the Home Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport by making a significant contribution to the security and safety of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics games. The safety and security operation for the games remains police-led. Work continues on the precise details and numbers of the defence contribution. However, the MOD now expects to provide up to 13,500 service personnel in London, on the Thames, in Weymouth and across the UK, delivering a range of military support to the police and other civil and Olympic authorities.

The MOD has been working very closely with the Metropolitan and Dorset police forces to scope the provision of specialist support to maritime security operations on the Thames and in Weymouth bay. It is currently planned for HMS Ocean to be based at Greenwich and HMS Bulwark in Weymouth bay, providing maritime command and control, accommodation, helicopter and small boat basing, and logistics supply.

We have been building on our existing arrangements to ensure that there will be an appropriate and scalable air security plan. A multi-layered plan has been developed and will include Typhoon aircraft, forward-based at RAF Northolt, helicopters operating from HMS Ocean and appropriate ground based air defence systems.

The MOD will increase the normal capacity of the armed forces in several specialist areas which are routinely provided to the civil authorities, in order to provide an enhanced level of capability and response, including explosive ordnance disposal, military working dogs and the capability to search vehicles and buildings.

In addition to this support to wider security activity, the armed forces will provide 3,500 personnel to support the venue security operation for the Olympic and Paralympic games, rising to 7,500 for the 17-day period of the Olympic games themselves. They will form part of a total venue guard-force of up to 23,700.

A further 1,000 strong military contingency force will be available to respond to Olympic-related civil emergencies. Military personnel will also provide command and control and logistics support for the range of military capabilities involved.

In providing this support. Defence will contribute up to 13,500 military personnel at times of peak demand. These numbers will be in addition to the ceremonial role which the armed forces will play during the Olympics, which will showcase our armed forces to the world. I am also pleased to note that a number of service personnel hope to compete on behalf of our nation.

This defence contribution is on a similar scale to that deployed at other recent Olympic games and will contribute to ensuring a safe, secure and enjoyable 2012 Olympics.

Defence will continue to be able to support current and contingent operations during the games and my priority will remain the troops we have deployed on operations, including in Afghanistan, before, during and after the Olympics.

Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees Review

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): The Ministry of Defence has concluded a review of the advisory bodies, the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees (formally established under a statutory instrument as the War Pensions Committees). This is in accordance with the Cabinet Office's recent guidance on public bodies, which took effect from 1 April 2011. This review examined the Committees' functions, as well as corporate governance procedures. The review concluded that the non-departmental public body model is the best way for them to deliver their functions, in a politically impartial way, in pursuing the interests of those who have served in the armed forces and their dependants.

The 13 Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees, covering Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and the English regions, provide vital work by developing relationships and agreements with regional organisations to enhance the services delivered to ex-service personnel and their families, in particular those who are vulnerable. They also provide independent advice to both central and local government, health authorities and service providers in local communities. They give local support in promoting the armed forces' covenant and have actively been involved in the development of local community covenants.

War Pensions Scheme Uprating 2012

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): The new rates of war pensions and allowances proposed from April 2012 are set out in the following tables. The annual uprating of war pensions and allowances for 2012 will take place from the week beginning 9 April 2012. Rates for 2012 are increasing by 5.2% in line with the September 2011 consumer prices index.

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*RATES 2011*	*RATES 2012*
WAR PENSIONS		
Disablement Pension (100% rates)		
officer (£ per annum)	8,323.00	8,756.00
other ranks (weekly amount)	159.50	167.80
Age allowances payable from age 65		
40%-50%	10.70	11.25
over 50% but not over 70%	16.40	17.25
over 70% but not over 90%	23.35	24.55
over 90%	32.80	34.50
Disablement gratuity (one-off payment)		
specified minor injury (min.)	1,016.00	1,069.00
specified minor injury (max.)	7,584.00	7,978.00
1 - 5% gratuity	2,535.00	2,667.00
6 - 14% gratuity	5,638.00	5,931.00
15-19% gratuity	9,860.00	10,373.00
SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES		
Unemployability allowance		
Personal	98.55	103.65
adult dependency increase	54.75	57.60
increase for first child	12.75	13.40
increase for subsequent children	14.95	15.75
Invalidity allowance		
higher rate	19.55	20.55
middle rate	12.60	13.30
lower rate	6.30	6.65
Constant attendance allowance		
exceptional rate	120.40	126.60
intermediate rate	90.30	94.95
full day rate	60.20	63.30
Part-day rate	30.10	31.65
Comforts allowance		
higher rate	25.90	27.20
lower rate	12.95	13.60
Mobility supplement	57.40	60.40
Allowance for lowered standard of occupation (maximum)	60.12	63.24
Therapeutic earnings limit (annual rate)	4,940.00	5,070.00
Exceptionally severe disablement allowance	60.20	63.30
Severe disablement occupational allowance	30.10	31.65
Clothing allowance (£ per annum)	205.00	216.00
Education allowance (£ per annum) (max)	120.00	120.00
WIDOW(ER)S BENEFITS		
Widow(er)s'-other ranks (basic with children) (weekly amount)	120.95	127.25
Widow(er)-Officer (basic with children) (£ per annum)	6,432.00	6,766.00
Childless widow(er)s' u-40 (other ranks) (weekly amount)	28.97	30.48
(Officer highest rate both wars) (£ per annum)	2,234.00	2,350.00
Supplementary Pension	80.91	85.12

(Weekly rates unless otherwise shown)	*RATES 2011*	*RATES 2012*
Age allowance		
(a) age 65 to 69	13.80	14.50
(b) age 70 to 79	26.50	27.90
(c) age 80 and over	39.30	41.35
Children's allowance		
Increase for first child	18.95	19.95
Increase for subsequent children	21.25	22.35
Orphan's pension		
Increase for first child	21.65	22.80
Increase for subsequent children	23.75	25.00
Unmarried dependant living as spouse (max)	118.60	124.90
Rent allowance (maximum)	45.60	47.95
Adult orphan's pension (maximum)	92.90	97.75

EDUCATION

Young People in Education, Training and Work

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education (Tim Loughton): The Departments for Education, for Work and Pensions and for Business, Innovation and Skills are today publishing "Building Engagement, Building Futures: Our Strategy to Maximise the Participation of 16-24 Year Olds in Education, Training and Work". This fulfils the commitment made in "Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers", the Government's social mobility strategy published in April by the Deputy Prime Minister.

Increasing the participation of 16 to 24-year-olds in learning and work not only makes a lasting difference to their individual lives, but is central to our ambitions to improve social mobility and stimulate economic growth.

"Building Engagement, Building Futures" sets out how our radical reforms to schools, vocational education, skills and welfare provision will all make a significant difference to young people's opportunities and support. The Government recognise that in some areas we need to go further, in particular to help the most vulnerable young people, who are at risk of long-term disengagement.

The strategy outlines our plans to support all young people to develop the skills, qualifications and experience they need—to succeed in their careers and make a positive contribution to our society and economy. It sets out how we will ensure that young people are in the best possible position to realise the opportunities available to them as the economy picks up. It builds on recent announcements that we will offer more apprenticeships for young people and provide additional support through the new youth contract, which includes at least 40,000 financial incentives for small businesses to take on a young apprentice.

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions, the Minister with responsibility for employment, my right hon. Friend the Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) and my hon. Friend the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning and I have worked together to develop this strategy, recognising the need for coherent policy approaches across education, training, skills and employment. This shared vision will help ensure that all services align in the best possible way to help every young person make progress towards adult life and successful careers.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Electricity Market Reforms

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): I am today publishing a technical update to the electricity market reform White Paper "Planning our electric future: a white paper for secure, affordable and low-carbon electricity"[1]. The update complements the White Paper published in July 2011 and follows the release of the carbon plan on 1 December 2011, which set out the Government's long-term plans for UK decarbonisation—making a transition to a low-carbon economy while maintaining energy security and minimising cost to consumers. Electricity market reform is a key tool for achieving this long-term carbon plan.

While the current electricity market has served us well, we face a number of unprecedented challenges. Around a fifth of existing generating capacity will close over the next decade and much of the replacement will be intermittent (such as wind) or inflexible (such as nuclear) generation, threatening our security of supply. At the same time electricity demand could as much as double by 2050, driven by greater electrification of transport, heating and industrial processes.

Our long-term vision for the market is one in which low-carbon generation can compete fairly on cost. This would mean a competitive, liquid market, cost-competitive technologies, and a credible carbon price. Electricity market reform is a set of arrangements to take us through this transition, addressing market failures to help low-carbon technologies compete fairly and to ensure a secure electricity supply.

The electricity market reform White Paper set out key measures to encourage investment in new generating and non-generation capacity (such as demand-side response and storage), reduce the impact on customer bills, and create a secure mix of electricity sources which meets increased demand. This includes supporting the introduction of renewables, carbon capture and storage (CCS) and nuclear to meet our low-carbon commitments. The White Paper marked the first stage of the reform process, with a commitment to provide a technical update around the turn of the year. Today I am publishing that update, which completes the strategic framework, setting out:

- Our view that the system operator, part of National Grid, best meets the criteria for delivering the feed-in tariff with contracts for difference (FIT CfD) and the capacity mechanism;
- Our decision to legislate for a capacity mechanism, in the form of a capacity market;
- Detail on work to enable investment decisions for early projects; and
- The next steps for the electricity market Reform programme.

The institutional framework is crucial to ensuring that electricity market reform has a robust, credit-worthy delivery model to drive enhanced investment into low-carbon generation and ensure security of supply while seeking to minimise the cost to consumers. The technical update outlines the institutional framework involving Government setting policy and objectives, the system operator administering the FIT CfD and CM, and Ofgem regulating the market. It includes our rationale for the system operator acting as the delivery organisation, its roles and responsibilities, relationship with Government; governance arrangements and principles for ensuring a credit-worthy structure for the FIT CfD and capacity mechanism contractual arrangements. This model best meets the criteria set out in the White Paper and builds on strong synergies between the system operator's current role of system balancing and the delivery of the FIT CfD and capacity mechanism.

The provision of secure, reliable electricity for consumers is a key objective for Government. A capacity mechanism provides an insurance policy against the risk of a capacity shortfall. Current estimates suggest that a problem could emerge in the medium term—although accurate forecasting far ahead is difficult. That is why we need to put in place our insurance policy now; so we are covered against all possibilities and can respond as and when we need to.

Having considered the responses to our consultation on possible models of capacity mechanism, and undertaken subsequent analysis on the relative merits of the different options under consideration, the Government intend to legislate for the establishment of a capacity market. A capacity market ensures sufficient reliable capacity is available by providing incentives to invest in new capacity, including generation and non-generation approaches such as demand-side response, or for existing capacity to remain operational. We recognise that non-generation approaches could have advantages in terms of lower costs and reduced impact on carbon emissions. As well as allowing demand-side response and storage to compete on a fair and equivalent basis to generating in the capacity market, we are also assessing whether the right incentives are in place to support the efficient use of electricity, and whether further action is needed.

The technical update sets out our high-level decisions on the design of the capacity market. The detailed design of the mechanism will be developed with stakeholders' engagement from next year. I am also publishing the capacity mechanism impact assessment today which outlines the full economic assessment of the policy options for a capacity mechanism. Our modelling indicates that the introduction of a capacity market should have a limited impact on average electricity bills and could lead to both a small reduction as a result of avoiding very high prices in scarcity periods and less volatile prices.

The White Paper set out the Government's commitment to work actively with relevant parties to enable early investment decisions for low-carbon electricity generation to progress to timetable wherever possible, including those required ahead of implementation of the FIT CfD. I would encourage developers who meet the characteristics outlined within the technical update to contact DECC to initiate discussions. We are also providing further certainty for existing renewable generators by setting out in more detail the arrangements for renewables obligation certificates (ROCs) from 2027 onwards.

We have made rapid progress and are now moving to a stage of detailed policy design. Government will continue to work closely with stakeholders through a collaborative process to develop the detailed design of the mechanisms during 2012. To assist this process and maintain transparency a further update on emissions performance standards and feed in tariff with contracts for difference will be published early next year. We intend to legislate for electricity market reform in the second session of this Parliament, which begins in May 2012.

[1] http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/legislation/white_papers/emr_wp_2011/emr_wp_2011.aspx.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council (Agenda)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The next Agriculture and Fisheries Council is on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 December, in Brussels. I shall represent the UK on agriculture matters on Thursday and the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon) will be representing the United Kingdom on the fisheries items throughout the Council. Richard Lochhead MSP, Michelle O'Neill MLA and Alun Davies AM will also attend.

There are three fisheries and three agriculture items on the agenda. Discussions will take place on the following:

TACs and fishing quotas for 2012—The annual December negotiation package of fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North sea for 2012.

TACs and quotas for fishing in the Black sea in 2012—Similar negotiations for stocks in the Black sea.

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund—The Commission will present the funding part of the CFP reform package which provides for a new instrument to replace the EFF and to integrate into it spending on the new EU integrated maritime policy.

CAP reform rural development proposal—A public debate focusing on the rural development proposal.

GM approvals—Council vote on approvals for use as food and feed of four GM varieties (three maize and one cotton).

Agricultural products promotions policy—Consideration of Council conclusions commenting on the green paper on promotion measures.

There are currently five points notified under any other business:

Commission presentation of a proposed regulation on sanctions against countries allowing non-sustainable fishing.

Cypriot item on aid for processed citrus fruit.

Protection of animals during transport—Commission report on implementation of the animal transport rules.

Codex Alimentarius—A presidency report back on the recent meeting of this UN body for international food standards.

Hungarian item on a technical aspect of the authorisation of GM products.

Finally, there is a ministerial lunch on Thursday 15 December to discuss certain aspects of rural development, including promoting innovation and risk management measures.

Independent Agricultural Appeals Panel

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): A review of the independent agricultural appeals panel (IAAP) has been commissioned and will start work today. The IAAP is an advisory non-departmental public body, sponsored by DEFRA, which provides advice to Ministers on appeals made by claimants under the single payment scheme and other CAP schemes administrated by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). This triennial review is part of a rolling programme of reviews that DEFRA is undertaking in line with Government's commitment to reducing the number and cost of public bodies and ensuring accountability for public functions by examining all non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) at least once every three years.

The IAAP review is to be conducted in accord with Government guidance for reviewing non-departmental public bodies, and will consider the effectiveness of how the functions of IAAP are currently delivered, whether there is a need for the function and the advisory NDPB to continue, and if so, how the function might best be delivered in future. The review will be led by a member for the DEFRA senior civil service who is not involved with the day-to-day business of the IAAP or RPA.

The review will compliment ongoing work by RPA to improve its complaints and appeals procedures. Key stakeholders are being informed of the review and invited to submit views. Further information, including how to participate in the review are available on DEFRA's website http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/farm-manage/review-iaap.

An announcement will be made about the outcome of the review in due course.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Overseas Security and Justice Assistance Guidance

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I would like to inform the House of the introduction of the Overseas Security and Justice Assistance (OSJA) guidance.

On 13 October, I announced in a statement to the House the conclusions of the Government's review of policy and practice with regard to the export of equipment that might be used for internal repression, in light of events in the middle east and north Africa. I also announced that the Government had considered how we could strengthen our decision making when we provide security and justice assistance overseas. I said that guidance on assessing the human rights implications of such assistance would be issued to all Government officials and that it would be published before the end of 2011. A copy of the "Overseas Security and Justice Assistance Human Rights Guidance" has now been deposited in the Library of the House.

The guidance is part of a package of improvements that responds to the lessons of this year, and our wider commitment to strengthen and uphold the record of the United Kingdom as a defender and promoter of human rights and democracy. This guidance will assist HMG staff who are called upon to advise on security and justice matters overseas. It will ensure greater consistency in the human rights approach to security and justice assistance overseas across HMG; it will assist in the identification and consideration of applicable legal obligations; and it will ensure that our security and justice activities, whilst meeting HMG's national security priority, are also consistent with a foreign policy based on British values including human rights.

UK security and justice assistance to international partners to tackle threats such as terrorism, serious organised crime and conflict, and to support sustainable development, remains crucial to implementing our foreign policy and development priorities. As well as strengthening our relationships with other Governments and increasing our prospects for future cooperation with security institutions, this type of work can have a direct impact on our national interests. For example, the strategic defence and security review recommended that HMG increase efforts to tackle the terrorist threat at source, overseas. Our counter-terrorism programme aims to do just this by increasing the capacity of overseas authorities, such as the police, military and intelligence, to detect, investigate and disrupt terrorist threats.

At times, this will mean working with countries, institutions or units where we have concerns about their adherence to and respect for human rights and democracy. Often, it is these countries or institutions where security and justice assistance is most needed. While it is in our national interest to continue to provide such assistance, in doing so we must ensure that such assistance supports our values and is consistent with applicable domestic and international human rights obligations.

Today's publication of the OSJA guidance is a reflection of our determination to ensure that when we provide assistance in these countries, we do so in a manner that promotes, rather than undermines, human rights and democracy.

Making these decisions is not always straightforward. While UK justice and security assistance can help achieve both security and human rights objectives in a given country, it can also present a variety of human rights risks. The OSJA guidance was produced in order to provide practical support to Government officials making these difficult decisions. It provides a clear framework to help officials identify the human rights risks, propose appropriate measures to mitigate these risks and produce a final assessment. It also sets out when the decision to provide assistance should be taken by senior personnel or Ministers. The guidance covers case specific assistance such as the deployment of specialist police officers to assist with an investigation, as well as broader capacity building assistance.

The OSJA guidance already applies to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and is currently being rolled out to other Government Departments. An internal review of the guidance will take place in April 2012.

The Government are committed to tackling issues related to security and human rights in an open and transparent way. This is why we published the Consolidated Guidance to Intelligence Officers and Security Personnel on the Detention and Interviewing of Detainees Overseas, and on the Passing and Receipt of Intelligence Related to Detainees. And it is why we have taken the decision to publish the "Overseas Security and Justice Assistance Guidance" today.

HEALTH

Tobacco Control Legislation

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): The Government will publish a consultation on the packaging of tobacco products in spring 2012.

In March 2011 the Government published "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England" which set out how our comprehensive, evidence-based programme of tobacco control will be delivered within the context of the new public health system over the next five years.

The tobacco control plan included a commitment to explore options to reduce the promotional impact of tobacco packaging and to publish a consultation paper.

The Government take very seriously the need to reduce the number of young people who take up smoking. Each year, in England alone, around 330,000 children under 16 first try smoking and the majority of smokers start smoking regularly before they are 18 years old.

I am pleased to confirm that this consultation will be carried out on a UK-wide basis. Ministers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are also eager to gain a better understanding of whether the plain packaging of tobacco products could be effective in reducing the number of young people who take up smoking and in supporting adults who want to quit. Participating in this consultation will help them in making decisions about how they wish to take forward this matter in their own Administrations.

It is also important to create a supportive environment for adults who want to quit smoking. Most smokers report that it takes many attempts before they succeed in quitting. Removing sources of temptation that undermine quit attempts can be of great help.

The Government want to make it easier for people to make healthy choices. To do this, we need to understand whether there is evidence to demonstrate that the plain packaging of tobacco products would have an additional health benefit, over and above existing tobacco control initiatives. The Department of Health has, therefore, commissioned an independent academic review of the existing evidence relevant to the effects of tobacco packaging. This systematic evidence review will be peer reviewed and made available alongside the consultation.

Department of Health officials are also working with colleagues across Government to explore the implications and likely impacts of options for tobacco packaging.

This presents a complex series of issues and we will need to take all the relevant factors into account.

In view of these requirements, the consultation will not be available prior to the new year. The consultation will be published in spring 2012 and I would encourage all those with an interest to respond.

HOME DEPARTMENT

National Policing Improvement Agency

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): As part of the wider reform of policing, I wish to update the House on plans to phase out the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), to transfer its critical national functions and to establish a police professional body and a new IT company. I am also, today, placing in the Library a summary of the responses that were received in relation to Peter Neyroud's report, "Review of Police Leadership and Training".

I am committed to a methodical and careful phase-out of the NPIA in 2012. Good progress is being made. The NPIA's headcount has reduced by 25%. The NPIA has announced its departure from its site at Harrogate. Some of NPIA's procurement functions have already transferred to the Home Office, and important detailed work has been done to identify successor bodies for the NPIA's critical national functions and services that are required to support an effective and modern police service.

In response to the policing leadership challenge set out by Peter Neyroud's review (which I placed in the House Library in April 2011), I intend to create a new police professional body. This is a unique opportunity to further professionalise policing, creating a body that directly supports police officers at all ranks and civilian policing professionals. It will also create opportunities to open up the closed system of leadership within the police service, to harness greater diversity and experience at a senior level, and to equip the service with the skills it needs to deliver effective crime fighting in a changing, leaner and more accountable environment.

Peter Neyroud, in his review, outlined a policing professional body which held chartered status. This will be an issue for the professional body itself to pursue when it has developed a body of evidence demonstrating it reaches the rigorous criteria required.

Whilst the police professional body will focus on policing in England and Wales, it will be important that it takes into account, and works closely with, forces in Scotland and Northern Ireland, particularly on cross-border issues.

The police professional body will develop policing as a single profession; it will represent the entire service and will act only in the public interest. Chief constables also need to come together for discussion, focusing on key operational issues, when it is in the public interest for them to do so. I envisage a need for a chiefs' council, and I am working with ACPO and key partners to consider the precise remit of the chiefs' council and its relationship with the police professional body.

As announced in July, the Government also intend to establish an information and communications technology (ICT) company. The company will be responsible for the procurement, implementation and management of complex contracts for information technology, related business change and outsourcing services, supplying both national and local services for police. The company will be owned by police authorities and subsequently police and crime commissioners, with the police service as its customer. It will provide:

- better value to forces for their ICT spend;
- greater innovation in police ICT, so that operational officers have better systems;
- freedom for chief constables to focus on fighting crime rather than managing ICT;
- services and products that support forces and other customers in their drive for inter-operability.

We are discussing the key design elements of the new company with representatives of forces and authorities to ensure that it meets their needs first and foremost.

It will operate in such a way that forces can more quickly, easily and efficiently collaborate and procure IT solutions which meet local requirements.

Turning to plans for other NPIA functions, not in scope for either the police professional body or the ICT company, I intend to:

transfer key national critical operational functions to the National Crime Agency (NCA), which naturally fit with its new national crime fighting remit. Those areas already identified include the Central Witness Bureau, Crime Operational Support, the National Missing Persons Bureau, the Serious Crime Analysis team, and the Specialist Operations centre. In the short term, these important functions will move to the Serious Organised Crime Agency, one of the major precursor bodies to the NCA;

transfer responsibility for the 101 non-emergency phone service, crime mapping, pathology services, forensic and other non-ICT procurement and the programme for implementing Schengen Information System (II) (SIS II), to the Home Office. These moves follow the non-ICT procurement transfers that were completed in October 2011;

hand over, to a lead force, the hosting of the new National Police Air Service;

end the work NPIA currently does advising on value for money by November 2012. In its place, police and crime commissioners will drive value for money in the police service, with further support where necessary.

All other NPIA functions are the subject of further detailed analysis and consultation with the wider police service. I expect to be able to make an announcement about the future of the NPIA's estate in the spring of 2012.

Of particular note will be reviews into the future viability of Bramshill House and the utilisation of Hendon Data Centre (HDC), which provides vital IT services at the very heart of policing. The HDC review will consider how services should be delivered in the future, by whom, and any transitional arrangements that will be necessary to ensure public safety is protected.

JUSTICE

Fines, Confiscation Orders and Fixed Penalties

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service ("HMCTS") has prepared a trust statement providing an account of the collection of revenues which, by statute or convention, are due to be paid to HM Treasury. The statement includes the value of fines and confiscation orders imposed by the judiciary; fixed penalties imposed by the police; the value of collections; the balances paid over to third-parties including victims of crime, the Home Office and HM Treasury; and the balance of outstanding impositions.

Enforcement of all court impositions is a priority for this Government. The Ministry of Justice has been working closely with the Home Office, Crown Prosecution Service, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and others to improve enforcement through a range of current and planned measures. These include "Operation Crackdown", a targeted blitz on persistent defaulters, telephone and text chasing, action to increasing deduction of court fines direct from salary and benefits, greater use of tracing tools like credit checks, and 24-hour telephone and internet payment facilities.

We are also exploring how we can reduce the level of "aged debt" on the Government's books—including fines, compensation and costs orders which have been imposed but have yet to be successfully collected after a minimum of 12 months. In some cases, these date back a number of years—some as far as the early 1990s. We are piloting new approaches with three commercial suppliers to establish the collectability of financial penalties over a year old, testing a combination of techniques and innovation and providing evidence on which to develop a strategy to manage this debt in the future.

The statement shows that in 2010-11 over £497 million of cash was collected by HMCTS—an increase of £25 million on the previous year. The overall total of outstanding impositions increased from £1.5 billion to £1.9 billion. The principal driver for this has been an increase in the use of confiscation orders, which have been more aggressively imposed in the Crown Court over the last year to deprive criminals of assets—their use by the courts in 2010-11 rose by 158%, and accounts for £1.2 billion of the total. In some cases, such as joint criminal enterprise, two separate orders can be issued for the total sum—in one case two individuals are separately liable for the same sum of £92 million, a total order of £184 million.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the direct collection of 16% of confiscation orders by value. Enforcing confiscation orders presents a challenge right across Government, as criminals use increasingly complex ways to mask or offshore their assets—it is estimated that over 60% of the total are "hidden" assets or held overseas. All agencies involved in confiscation orders are committed to improving enforcement performance.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) has today published a report on the trust statement, and provided a disclaimer with his certificate. This reflects the fact that the IT systems used in the enforcement of impositions are live "case management" systems, rather than accounting systems: they are fully effective in reporting the value of money owed to ensure targeted enforcement, but cannot be used for retrospective reporting of individual transactions for audit. The IT system was rolled out in 2007-8: the requirement to produce a trust statement first arose for 2010-11. We estimate that to implement a new accounting system for these purposes would cost at least £3 million, and would not present good value for public money. We are, however, taking steps to ensure that we are better able to evidence the robustness of the historical figures for audit purposes in future.

Public Bodies Reform

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): Today I have laid before Parliament a public consultation response document; "Response to Consultation on reforms proposed in the Public Bodies Bill—Reforming the public bodies of the Ministry of Justice".

The response confirms the Ministry of Justice's intentions in relation to the Department's bodies included in the Public Bodies Bill, which received Royal Assent yesterday. Reform of these bodies through the powers provided in the Public Bodies Act 2011 will increase Government accountability, eliminate duplication of activity and discontinue activities that no longer need to take place.

The response confirms the Government's intention to abolish the following bodies: the Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council; Courts Boards; the Crown Court Rule Committee; HM Inspectorate of Courts Administration; the Magistrates' Courts Rule Committee; and the Public Guardian Board. The Department will also use the powers in the Bill to merge four bodies or offices to create The National Archives as a legal entity to reflect current administrative arrangements. These bodies and offices are: the Public Record Office, HM Stationery Office, The Keeper of Public Records and the Advisory Council on Public Records.

I have decided that the Government should not pursue the abolition of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and that the office of the chief coroner should be established but without the bespoke appeals system that would have been attached to that office. Amendments to that effect were made to the Public Bodies Bill on 23 November during Lords Consideration of Commons Amendments.

The Government continue to believe that there is a need for reform of youth justice in order to increase direct ministerial accountability for this important and distinct area of the justice system. The Ministry of Justice will shortly bring forward new proposals for youth justice reform. The Department will also announce in the new year further details of the timetable for the implementation of the office of the chief coroner.

Orders that give effect to the decisions set out in the response paper will be laid from early in 2012. As provided for in the Public Bodies Act 2011, all such orders will be subject to the enhanced affirmative parliamentary procedure.

Coroner Services (Charter)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): The Government are today publishing their response to the consultation on the charter for current coroner services.

The charter will help those who come into contact with coroner services in England and Wales by for the first time setting out the standards that bereaved family members and others can expect to receive. It also sets out what someone can do if they are unhappy with the level of service provided.

The charter forms an integral part of the Government's plans for reform of the coroner system, and, alongside the appointment of a chief coroner and implementation of most of the provisions in part 1 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, will help to ensure much more consistent standards of service between coroner areas.

The charter consultation closed on 5 September 2011. A total of 135 responses were received from a range of stakeholders including coroners, local authorities, voluntary organisations, medical professionals and members of the public. Our response document summarises the views of respondents, and shows where we will subsequently make revisions to the charter.

Overall, there was support for the charter to be published, as proposed, alongside the Ministry of Justice's current "Guide to Coroners and Inquests". This combined document will ensure that people can easily access one document setting out first the processes in a coroner inquiry (the guide) and secondly the standards that can be expected throughout (the charter).

Hard copies of the final version of the combined guide and charter booklet will be printed and distributed to all coroner jurisdictions in early 2012. The guide and the charter will then be updated as and when changes to the coroner system are introduced in the future.

The response paper is available online, at http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/closed-with-response.htm.

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): I attended the second Transport Council of the Polish presidency in Brussels on 12 December.

The Council reached political agreement on a proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a single European railway area (Recast). At its First Reading of the proposal on 16 November the European Parliament made amendments which differed significantly from the Council's general approach adopted at the June Transport Council. However, the political agreement text only incorporates those amendments that do not alter the general approach, and are acceptable to the UK. The Commission hopes a Second Reading deal can be struck with the European Parliament under the Danish presidency.

The Council agreed a partial general approach on a draft regulation amending Regulation 3821/85 on recording equipment in road transport. This proposal would amend the specification for tachographs, which measure hours spent at the wheel by commercial lorry and bus drivers.

The Council also agreed a general approach on:

a proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2008/106/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the minimum level of training of seafarers to bring the extant directive into line with the latest International Maritime Organization rules; and

a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the accelerated phasing-in of double-hull or equivalent design requirements for single-hull oil tankers (Recast). The amendments reflect changes to the international regime for tankers adopted at the International Maritime Organization between 2002 and 2009.

The Council noted a progress report on a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network. This item generated substantial discussion. I intervened to acknowledge the importance of good cross-border infrastructure for the single market, but expressed concern about binding obligations proposed and the financial and administrative burdens they would place on member states at a time when fiscal constraints are substantial and also stressed the need for member states to retain their responsibility for planning decisions, processes and implementation. On the proposed increase to the TEN-T budget, I said budgetary restraint must be the priority.

Under Any Other Business, the Commission presented its new proposals on a "better airport package" which covers a recast of the slot allocation regulation, and revisions to the current directives on ground handling and noise which are intended to address issues of capacity,

growth, environmental concerns and competitiveness. The proposals on ground handling and noise have been recast as (directly applicable) regulations.

The Commission reported on the European aviation safety management system and air cargo security action plan. I intervened in strong support of the European aviation safety management system and to request that the Commission report back on progress at a future Transport Council.

The Commission, at the request of Finland, reported on the current state of play with regards to the aviation EU emissions trading system (ETS). There had been three main developments since the June Transport Council: the US House of Representatives had approved a Bill that would prohibit US airlines from complying with ETS; there had been political messages against ETS emerging from the ICAO Council in November; and President Obama had specifically raised the issue at the EU/US summit on 28 November, noting the need to avoid confrontation. The Commission's assessment was that while international opposition was strong, so was the EU response. The Commission acknowledged there still could be a challenge in ICAO under the Chicago convention, and that it was important to understand what forms retaliatory action could take. Following a legal challenge from the US Air Transport Association and three US airlines the European Court of Justice will deliver its judgment on the case on 21 December.

Antonio Tajani, Commissioner responsible for industry and entrepreneurship, updated Ministers on recent developments within the Galileo programme and indicated that since the successful launch of the first two satellites in October the system was now up and running with real momentum behind it. The Commission also presented its proposed regulation on Galileo governance and exploitation.

Before the Council, I met Ministers from Finland and Ireland, the German State Secretary, and the Northern Irish Transport Minister to discuss items on the Transport Council agenda, in particular TEN-T. In a separate discussion after Transport Council, I exchanged views on TEN-T and better regulation with the Siim Kallas, the Transport Commissioner.

The UK did not participate in the vote on one item on the A point list, namely article 81 based Council decision authorising the EU to accede to the 2002 protocol to the Athens convention relating to the carriage of passengers and their luggage by sea. The UK has, however, subsequently notified its intention to opt in to the Council decision.

The Danish delegation presented the work programme of their forthcoming presidency of the EU. The incoming Danish presidency's overarching aim in the transport sector will be "green growth" and they will take forward work on current Council dossiers. For example, they will be seeking to reach a Second Reading agreement with the European Parliament on the recast of the first railway package. They will also commence work on proposals included in the recently published Commission work programme, such as the airport package and the proposals on driving licences and the satellite navigation programmes, as well as on an expected proposal on enforcement of the maritime labour convention. Their main priorities are the TEN-T guidelines and the airport package, especially ground handling and noise reduction proposals.

Red Tape Challenge (Reform of Road Transport Regulations)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Justine Greening): In May, my Department launched the road transportation theme of the red tape challenge—part of the Cabinet Office's project to review all of the outstanding regulations currently on the statute book. Following a detailed process of challenge, stakeholder discussion and public feedback, I am now pleased to announce the results.

Within the road transport red tape challenge, my Department put forward every secondary regulation relating to road transportation for public discussion—415 in total. Some 376 of these are judged still to be live, and of these I propose to scrap, merge, simplify, amend or improve 142—well over a third. The detailed breakdown I propose is:

	Keep as is	*Improve*	*Scrap*	*Moved* [1]
Number	226	84	58	8
Percentage	60.1%	22.3%	15.4%	2.1%
Number non-EU	180	75	54	8
% non-EU	55.9%	23.6%	18.0%	2.5%

[1] Moved regulations will be finalised under a different section of the red tape challenge.

Among the measures we are pursuing, we will be:

Scrapping the regulation requiring motorists to hold a paper counterpart to their driving licence by 2015—saving drivers up to £8 million;

Improving the regulation surrounding the notification process for vehicles that are not in use on the road (Statutory Off Road Notification or SORN). Once drivers have notified the DVLA that their vehicle is SORN, they will no longer have the burden of annual SORN renewal;

Only issuing hard-copies of V5C vehicle registration certificates for fleet operators when needed (with the potential to offer the same to private motorists);

Introducing a limited exemption from drivers' hours rules so that those who also drive as Territorial Army reservists in their own time can continue to do so.

The Challenge has also considered various administrative measures that are not based in legislation and has examined pieces of primary legislation that can be amended or simplified.

Other proposals include:

Removing the need for an insurance certificate. The Department for Transport will work with the insurance industry on removing the need for motorists to have to hold an insurance certificate.

Abolishing the requirement for drivers to prove they have insurance when applying for tax, meaning 600,000 more people will be able to tax their car online. This has been made possible by new checks of existing databases for insurance under new continuous

insurance enforcement rules. (The DVLA's records are now compared regularly with the motor insurance database (MID) to identify registered keepers of vehicles that appear to have no insurance).

We will look at experience in other countries on driver certificates of professional competence (CPC)—the qualification for professional bus, coach and lorry drivers. In particular, to see if we could remove the need for some sectors, such as farmers who drive stock to market, from needing a CPC.

Local authorities will now have to ensure business interests are properly considered as part of any future proposed workplace parking levy scheme. They must show they have properly and effectively consulted local businesses, have

addressed any proper concerns raised and secured support from the local business community.

Abolishing the regulations on the treatment of lost property on buses. Bus companies currently have to wait 48 hours before they can throw away perishable items left on the bus.

The full list of 376 regulations, explaining what actions we are taking on each, is available on my Department's website at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/gov-20110520.

Overall, this represents an ambitious programme of deregulation, some elements of which will represent a major shift in the way my Department does business. I am pleased with the results of this section of the red tape challenge and the deregulatory mindset it has helped foster. I look forward to similar outcomes from the ongoing rail and maritime theme and next year's examination of aviation red tape.

WORK AND PENSIONS

European Social Fund Support for Troubled Families

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): I am pleased to announce today that the Government have put in place additional support in England for troubled families and where either no one is working or there is a history of worklessness across generations.

This support, which is funded through money received by DWP in England from the European social fund, will offer these families the opportunity to engage in work related activities, address issues which are preventing them from working and enhance their chances of returning to the labour market either directly or through the Work programme. This supports the wider cross-Government agenda on troubled families led by Louise Casey, to help turn around the lives of such families.

The provision will be employment focused and tackle barriers which prevent individual family members from returning to the labour market. The provider will take a whole family approach with support being tailored to meet individual needs. Local authorities in England have a key role identifying families who are ready for this specific support and have been working with the DWP providers to enable this to happen. This joint working and engagement will be ongoing.

Workplace Pension Reform

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am pleased to announce that today we have achieved key milestones that will help secure a robust, efficient workplace pensions system for the 21st century.

First, we are publishing "Meeting future workplace pensions challenges: improving transfers and dealing with small pots" (Cm 8184). This paper sets out actions that the Government are taking to make sure people get the most out of the money they save:

We will abolish short service refunds for defined contribution occupational schemes. These rules jeopardise pension savings for low to median earners and will not be part of the automatic enrolment world. We expect this rule change to happen as soon as 2014, provided we are able to implement an accompanying solution for small pot transfers at the same time. A full impact assessment is being published alongside the paper to take account of this change.

Abolishing short service refunds will create more small pension pots for defined contribution (DC) occupational schemes, but this is part of a much wider problem. We anticipate that automatic enrolment and a highly mobile jobs market will lead to around 4.7 million additional small pension pots in our pension system by 2050. The burden of these small pots is compounded by the fact that systemic barriers, like cost and complexity, prevent people from moving and consolidating their pensions into one place.

So our paper seeks views and evidence from stakeholders on how we can reduce the number of small pots and improve transfers. We discuss possible solutions: ranging from minimal changes to the current system to an automatic transfer system where pension pots can be collected in one or more "aggregator" schemes or could follow people from job to job. We welcome feedback on these possible approaches.

Alongside this paper we are also publishing a consultation on the 2012-13 review and revision of the automatic enrolment thresholds. This consultation invites contributions to inform how we take this review forward for the first year of automatic enrolment live running. It is important that we get this review right—so that we target the correct group for automatic enrolment while carefully weighing the cost to business and the impact on the pension industry.

I would like to thank the pensions community for their input to this work so far. This collaboration needs to continue if we are to make automatic enrolment a success.

Copies of the paper will be available in the Vote office and Printed Paper office later today.

Copies of the consultation document and the impact assessment will be placed in the library.

These publications will be available later today on the Department's website: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2011/

Written Ministerial

Statements

Monday 19 December 2011

TREASURY

Red Diesel

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Miss Chloe Smith): I am today announcing that, following an internal review of the use of rebated fuel or "red diesel" for community and charitable activities in rural areas, HMRC is launching a formal consultation exercise on extending the use of red diesel to allow tractors to grit roads in rural communities.

HMRC's review examined the scope for extending the use of red diesel by farmers to allow them to undertake a range of community-based activities, including allowing farmers to use their tractors to undertake gritting in rural communities. Following an informal consultation exercise, HMRC will now consult formally on permanent changes to the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979 to allow farmers to use their tractors to grit roads in rural areas.

This change builds on HMRC's temporary relaxation of its enforcement procedures during the last two severe winters, and will provide much-needed support to rural communities that are often too remote to benefit from municipal gritting activities and may find themselves cut off during periods of extreme weather. While the consultation is carried out, HMRC will continue to stand ready to temporarily relax enforcement procedures in the event of severe weather this winter.

For other community activities, the review concluded that it would not be possible to extend the use of red diesel to accommodate other community activities in a way that would be consistent with EU legislation (Directive 2003/96—the energy products directive).

However, the Government are clear that HMRC should take a pragmatic approach when farmers undertake community activities. To reinforce this approach further, HMRC intends to issue revised guidance to remind its officers that a degree of common sense should be used when dealing with these types of cases. If there is sufficient evidence to suggest someone has mistakenly breached the rules governing the use of red diesel, a warning should normally be given. The Government also recognise that the best way to minimise instances of mistaken use of red diesel is to increase awareness. To assist farming communities to comply with the law, HMRC will also refresh its internet guidance on the use of red diesel for grass cutting, to remove any confusion that may exist.

HMRC will launch the formal consultation exercise on its website early in the new year.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Finance

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): Later today, I am introducing legislation which will take forward proposals designed to encourage local economic growth, reduce the financial deficit, we have inherited from the last Administration, promote welfare reform and drive decentralisation of control over local government finance.

The Local Government Finance Bill will take forward key proposals which were considered as part of the local government resource review and announced in the spending review 2010. The local government finance system that we inherited from the last Administration is one of the most complex and centralised in the world. These reforms will address this, and increase transparency over the local finance system.

The Local Government Finance Bill will take forward our commitment to introduce a local business rates retention scheme which will enable local authorities to retain a proportion of the business rates generated in their area.

Today, I have published the Government response to the consultation on business rates retention which sought views over the summer on how a rate retention scheme would operate. The response puts forward a strong scheme that I believe will provide a strong financial incentive for local authorities to grow their local economies with the necessary safeguards to ensure authorities with high need and low tax bases are still able to meet the needs of their areas. These reforms will also provide local authorities with the framework to implement tax increment financing. Businesses will see no difference in the way they pay business rates or the way that they are set. Local charities, voluntary groups and small businesses will continue to be eligible for the same reliefs.

These reforms will boost local firms and local jobs as councils are given more autonomy over their own financial circumstances, and rewarded for building stronger relationships with business to strengthen the local economy. They have the potential to increase the aggregate income from business rates, compared to the status quo, due to greater enterprise and economic growth.

The Bill will also enable local authorities in England to set up local schemes of support for council tax, replacing council tax benefit. This will give local authorities the flexibility to design schemes which reflect local priorities, giving them a greater financial stake in the economic future of their area and enabling them to deliver a saving of 10% on the current council tax benefit expenditure bill. This saving is an important contribution to Government's vital deficit reduction programme.

The new system will be a fairer one, where taxpayers can be more confident that the spiralling benefits bill is controlled and where work pays. Councils will be much better placed to attract new business and industry, better placed to help their residents get off welfare and reap the benefits of work instead. They will directly benefit from improving the prosperity of the local area that will in turn drive down the costs of offering support with council tax.

I have today published the Government's response to the recent consultation on localising support for council tax, setting out the Government's policy and how we plan to support local authorities in implementing schemes in their areas.

Local authorities will have much greater freedom to administer rebates in a way that best meets local needs and best supports local people while safeguards will be

put in place to protect pensioners from any reduction in the support that is on offer as a result of the introduction of this reform.

Subject to consultation, the Bill will propose changes to council tax rules to provide further flexibility on the council tax local authorities can charge on empty properties, and other small changes aimed at modernising the system. By treating everyone equally and fairly and removing the special tax breaks for empty homes and second homes, councils have the potential to cut £20 a year off families' council tax bills.

I intend to continue to work closely with local authorities, representative groups and other key parties in the design of the framework to be set out in secondary legislation, and welcome the excellent contribution I know they will make to the ongoing development and implementation of these proposals.

These proposals on council tax stand alongside the Government's two-year council tax freeze, the cancellation of a council tax revaluation, the abolition of new bin taxes on family homes and new rights for local residents to veto excessive council tax rises.

These reforms also complement a wide package of financial measures that the Government are pursuing to support local authorities and local economies. These measures include over £430 million of funding under new homes bonus, up to £1 billion in community infrastructure levy, access to the £2.4 billion regional growth fund and £500 million growing places fund through local enterprise partnerships.

EDUCATION

Positive for Youth

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education (Tim Loughton): Young people matter. They are important to us now, and to our future, and we need them to flourish. Now more than ever we need to engage young people and support them to face economic challenges and tackle negative stereotypes.

Published today, "Positive for Youth" is a new approach to cross-Government policy for young people aged 13-19 in England. It brings together a range of the Government's policies for this age group across the interests of at least nine Departments. It has been produced with young people and youth professionals through extensive collaboration and consultation.

"Positive for Youth" sets out a shared vision for how all parts of society—including councils, schools, charities, businesses—can work together in partnership to support families and improve outcomes for young people, particularly those who are most disadvantaged or vulnerable. This means working towards a common goal of all young people having a strong sense of belonging, and the supportive relationships, strong ambitions, and good opportunities they need to realise their potential.

Parents and families have the primary responsibility for helping young people succeed. They need to be supported and any services to young people need to take them into account. Communities, including businesses, also need to take responsibility for helping young people belong and succeed.

Raising young people's aspirations and educational attainment is crucial to their success in life. The Government have already announced significant reforms and investment to improve education standards and increase young people's participation in learning and work. Young people's experiences outside the classroom at home and in their community are also crucial to helping them form and pursue their ambitions. "Positive for Youth" emphasises the importance of young people's personal and social development to educational, employment, and other long-term outcomes—and the role of services such as youth work in supporting this development. It promotes early intervention to address issues young people may face to prevent them escalating and causing harm.

Councils are accountable primarily to local people for how well young people do, and how well their services support them. Young people must be in the driving seat to inform decisions, shape provision, and inspect quality.

The Government are taking a wide range of actions to facilitate local reform, including:

- clarifying their expectations on local authorities through revised statutory guidance to be published shortly for consultation on their duty to secure activities and services for young people;
- empowering young people by enabling them to inspect and report on local youth services and setting up a national scrutiny group for them to help "youth proof " Government policy as part of funding of £850,000 to the British Youth Council in 2011-2013;
- funding improved business brokerage with projects for young people through investment of £320,000 to April 2013;
- providing capital investment to complete 63 myplace centres by April 2013, and developing a national approach to exploiting their potential to be autonomous hubs led by communities and businesses for transforming local services;
- expanding national citizen service to offer 30,000 places to young people In 2012, 60,000 in 2013, and 90,000 in 2014.

The Government will publish annually national measures of young people's positive outcomes, and an audit at the end of 2012 of overall progress towards creating a society which is more positive for youth.

"Positive for Youth" and an executive summary are available on the Department for Education website at www.education.gov.uk/positiveforyouth. Copies of "Positive for Youth" have also been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

National Curriculum in England (Review)

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): Over the past year the review of the national curriculum in England has been looking at curricula in the highest-performing, and fastest-improving, jurisdictions internationally. Today I am publishing a set of initial findings and recommendations.

The review team's work has uncovered a consistent theme: these high-performing jurisdictions set materially higher expectations in terms of what they believe children can and should master at different ages. This comes as no surprise. Over the past 10 years our education system

as measured by performance in the OECD's PISA international league tables has deteriorated significantly. If our schools, and young people, are to become internationally competitive again we must learn from the best in the world.

The recommendations made by the review's expert panel set out the scale of the challenge we face, and raise fundamental questions about educational practice in this country. For example:

> The expert panel recommend that we learn from the approach to assessment and pupil progression used in many high-performing jurisdictions, including the most successful south-east Asian education systems, which ensure that every pupil has mastered the subject content before the class moves on to tackle the next part of the curriculum. They express concern that our existing assessment model assumes that a certain proportion of young people will never be able to master crucial curriculum content, leading to an unjustified lowering of expectations.
>
> The international evidence shows that all successful jurisdictions expect pupils to study a broad curriculum to 16, built around a core of academic subjects. The expert panel argue that England narrows its curriculum for the majority of pupils too early.
>
> The evidence identifies the higher expectations of pupils in maths, English and science in high-performing jurisdictions. For example,
>
> In Singapore, pupils are expected to know all their times tables and related division facts by the end of year 4; here our national expectation is at year 6.
>
> Pupils in Singapore are also expected to learn about plant and animal cells in year 6, including how cell division forms the basis of growth, while we leave this until secondary.
>
> All high-performing jurisdictions—like Singapore, the Canadian province of Alberta and the US state of Massachusetts—have a separate section on grammar in their curricula with clear standards which must be met.
>
> Poland, a fast-improving education system, has high expectations in their recommended reading, including Homer, Chekhov and Shakespeare alongside great works of Polish literature.
>
> The panel also recommend that we should look again at the "key stage" structure of the curriculum which they argue can lead to a lack of pace and ambition at key points in pupil's education.

It would, of course, be wrong to conclude that England should simply import systems used in other countries wholesale. But it is absolutely clear that these findings challenge fundamental tenets of our current system.

The expert panel also raise crucial questions about the complex interaction between curriculum and qualifications in secondary schools. Evidence shows that what is taught is determined as much, if not more, by examinations as by the national curriculum. This means we need to consider GCSE reform alongside the development of the new curriculum.

As the recent revelations in the Daily Telegraph have confirmed, far-reaching reform to our examinations system is vital—and must be considered in parallel with changes to the secondary curriculum. While immediate action is needed to deal with the improper practices that have been revealed, we need also to take the opportunity to ensure that deep-seated problems with how GCSEs have been developed and delivered can be addressed. We must ensure that qualifications support excellent teaching that develops in pupils a broad and deep understanding of the subject.

In light of the far-reaching and complex nature of the expert panel recommendations, and to allow for more radical reform of both curriculum and qualifications, I have decided to change the planned timetable for the introduction of the new national curriculum. Instead of new curricula for English, mathematics, science and PE being introduced from 2013, and the remainder in 2014, the new curriculum for all subjects will be introduced in 2014.

The longer time scale will allow for further debate with everyone interested in creating a genuinely world-class education system; teachers, governors, academics, business leaders and parents, as well as giving schools more time to prepare for a radically different and more rigorous approach.

A detailed timetable for the conduct of the remainder of the review, as well as a refreshed remit, will be published in the new year and copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Alongside this statement I am publishing a suite of documents which, taken together, provide a summary of the findings to date of the review. This suite includes:

> The report of the review's expert panel setting out their recommendations in relation to the framework for the new national curriculum;
>
> A summary of the evidence gathered about curricula for English, mathematics and science in high-performing jurisdictions;
>
> A research report that looks at subject breadth in the curricula used in other education jurisdictions; and
>
> A summary report of the responses to the review's call for evidence.

A copy of each of these documents has been placed in the Library of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood Risk Management

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): I am today publishing a report following the three flood insurance working groups established in 2010. The working groups were made up of representatives from Government, the insurance industry and community groups. Building on their conclusions, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury and I have agreed to sponsor further work to analyse the options for managing the future financial risks of flooding.

Government and the insurance industry remain committed to making sure flood insurance remains widely available. Together we are working towards an announcement in the spring of a new shared understanding which sets out more clearly what customers can expect from their insurer, and from Government.

The existing statement of principles currently enables insurers to price according to risk. Risk-based pricing has not been commonly applied in the past because of a range of factors including commercial decisions by individual insurers and historic limitations in the availability of flood risk information. However, the market is evolving with the development of more sophisticated tools for assessing a customer's flood risk with the reality being a continuing trend towards more risk-based pricing.

Taking steps to reduce flood risk, whether by Government, local communities or individuals, minimises damage occurring in the first place and thereby plays a vital role in bearing down on insurance costs. In accordance with this Government's determination to deliver solutions which offer taxpayers greatest value for money and which will endure over the long-term, the priority will continue to be to invest in reducing the risk of people and properties being flooded in the first place, rather than re-directing funds into subsidising insurance premiums, which would do nothing to protect against the wider, non-monetary, health and well-being impacts of flooding.

Hence we propose to:

Continue to target Government funding towards those most at risk and living in the most deprived areas through flood and coastal resilience partnership funding launched in May of this year. There is already progress: 36% of households protected by new flood alleviation schemes proposed for 2012-13 are at significant risk and in the most deprived communities, compared with 6% during the previous spending period. Overall, the Government plan to invest £2.17 billion on flood and coastal erosion risk management in England over the current spending review period.

Continue to improve the quality and availability of flood risk maps published by the Environment Agency including surface water flooding maps, so that individuals and communities can be more aware of levels of local flood risk and better informed about what action could be taken at an appropriate level to provide better protection.

Continue to extend the flood warnings service so that by 2015 at least two thirds of households and businesses in the highest risk areas are signed up to receive the floodline warnings direct service.

Explore with the insurance industry how to create an environment where those at risk are incentivised and supported to proactively reduce flood risk with the consequent effect being seen in their long-term insurance costs.

Over the next few months we will continue to work with insurance companies to consider what additional measures might help safeguard the affordability of flood insurance for households. As part of this ongoing work we will be considering the feasibility, value for money and deliverability of targeting funds to help those most in need, building on the analysis undertaken by the working groups established after last year's flood summit. This may include models where communities might work together to secure affordable insurance.

These options will be considered over the winter months in order to make further announcements in the spring. However, in the interests of keeping the Members and their constituents abreast of these ongoing discussions I wanted to give this interim update.

Copies of the report of the flood insurance working groups are available on the DEFRA website.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is today publishing the 12th progress report on developments in Afghanistan since November 2010.

The second tranche of areas to enter the security transition process was announced on 27 November. This demonstrates continuing progress in the development of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). The announcement, which includes Nad-e-Ali in Helmand, means that Afghan forces will soon begin to take lead responsibility for the security of approximately half the country's population. While the security situation throughout Afghanistan remains challenging, progress is being made. The ANSF have demonstrated that they are able to lead on security effectively and competently in the areas that started the transition process earlier this year. They also demonstrated their growing capability at November's traditional Loya Jirga where, despite insurgent intent, there were no security breaches.

The IMF board has approved a new three-year programme of support for Afghanistan. This decision shows that the Afghan Government have reassured international donors and ordinary Afghans alike that they are serious about providing a safe economic and business environment. Now that a new IMF programme is in place, donors including the UK are able to resume support to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, which helps the Afghan Government deliver vital basic services and key reforms for the Afghan people. In the meantime, with UK support the Afghan Government continue to make good progress in raising their own funds: revenue collection reached record levels last quarter.

The international conference on Afghanistan in Bonn on 5 December agreed a framework for the international community's long-term engagement with Afghanistan to 2014 and beyond and agreed to produce a clear plan for funding the ANSF in advance of the Chicago conference to be held in May 2012.

At the traditional Loya Jirga, President Karzai reiterated his commitment to stand down as president in 2014, in accordance with the constitution.

I am placing the report in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Orders

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period. Paragraph 5 of schedule 8 to the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament covering the period that begins immediately after the end of the last three-month period and ends immediately before commencement.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice. This report covers both reporting periods.

The transition to TPIMs

The 2011 Act commenced on 15 December 2011. A copy of the Act can be found on Parliament's website. The home page for the Act is:

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/23/contents/enacted.

The 2005 Act has now been repealed but the control orders in force at the time of commencement of the 2011 Act will remain in effect for a 42-day transitional period concluding on 25 January 2012 unless revoked before then. This is to allow for an orderly, managed and—above all—safe transition to the new system.

The exercise of the control order powers in the relevant periods

As explained in previous quarterly statements, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that the obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold Control Order Review Groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. During the reporting periods, two CORGs were held in relation to the control orders in force at the time. Other meetings were held on an ad hoc basis as specific issues arose.

During the period 11 September 2011 to 10 December 2011, no non-derogating control orders were made or served. Two control orders were revoked during this period and two control orders have been renewed in accordance with section 2(6) of the 2005 Act. No non-derogating control orders were made, served, revoked or renewed during the period 11 December 2011 to 14 December 2011.

In total, as of 10 and 14 December, there were nine control orders in force, all of which were in respect of British citizens. All of these control orders were non-derogating.

Two individuals were charged with breaching their control order obligations during this period. One further individual was acquitted of two counts of breaching a control order; the jury failed to return a verdict on the remaining 13 counts against the same individual.

During the period 11 September 2011 to 10 December 2011, 76 modifications of control order obligations were made. Nineteen requests to modify control order obligations were refused. No further modifications were made or requests refused during the period 11 December 2011 to 14 December 2011.

Section 10(1) of the 2005 Act provides a right of appeal against a decision by the Secretary of State to renew a non-derogating control order or to modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order without consent. Two appeals have been lodged with the High Court during this reporting period under section 10(1). A right of appeal is also provided by section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against a decision by the Secretary of State to refuse a request by a controlled person to revoke their order or to modify any obligation under their order. During this reporting period one appeal was lodged with the High Court under section 10(3), and then withdrawn.

One judgment has been handed down by the High Court during this reporting period in relation to a control order case.

On 3 October 2011, the High Court handed down a judgment in relation to five appeals brought by a controlled individual under section 10(3) of the 2005 Act. In *AM v. Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2011] EWHC 2486 (Admin) the High Court upheld the Secretary of State's decisions.

Most open judgments are available at http://www.bailii.org/.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Draft Parliamentary Privilege Bill

The Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Leader of the House of Commons (Mr David Heath): The Leader of the House of Lords and I are today setting out the next steps in the Government's preparation of a draft Bill on parliamentary privilege.

The Programme for Government announced our intention to

"prevent the possible misuse of parliamentary privilege by MPs accused of serious wrongdoing".

Following this, the Queen's Speech set out that we would publish a draft Bill during this Session on parliamentary privilege. I can now announce that the Government intend to publish a Green Paper alongside the draft Bill. The Green Paper and draft Bill will be published before the end of this parliamentary Session.

In the Green Paper, the Government will consult on the desirability of certain changes that could be made to the operation of parliamentary privilege. In that Green Paper, we intend to set out the Government's thinking on each of the principal areas where it has previously been suggested that reform is necessary or desirable. Where we believe there is a case to be made for legislative change, this thinking will be supported by clauses in the draft Bill.

In line with the commitment in the coalition agreement, the Government are considering whether there are potential obstacles that ought to be removed to the prosecution of Members of either House for ordinary criminal acts. This is notwithstanding the Supreme Court ruling in *R v Chaytor and others*, which established that the criminal courts did have jurisdiction over dishonest claims for allowances, as these were not proceedings in Parliament under article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689, and did not fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the two Houses.

The Green Paper will also discuss, among other questions:

whether legislation is necessary or desirable to ensure that the powers of Select Committees can be satisfactorily enforced;

whether legislation is desirable to establish that the principle of exclusive cognisance applies only to activities directly and closely related to proceedings in Parliament;

whether a statutory definition of proceedings in Parliament is needed; and

whether there should be changes to the law on reporting of parliamentary proceedings in the media.

The Government will not be proposing to constrain by legislation the ability of hon. Members to name in proceedings in Parliament individuals who are the subject of anonymity injunctions made by the courts. It will be for each House to consider whether to make changes to their internal procedures to address this issue.

In setting out their views, the Government will be mindful of the views previously expressed by a number of Select Committees, including the 1998-99 Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege, the Committee on Standards and Privileges, the 2009-10 Select Committee on the Issue of Privilege, the Joint Committees on the draft Corruption, Bribery and Defamation Bills, the House of Commons Procedure Committee, the Justice Committee and the Culture, Media and Sport Committee. The Government also wish to take into account any proposals from the Joint Committee on Privacy and Injunctions that impinge on parliamentary privilege.

Following correspondence earlier this year with the chairs of the Liaison Committees in both Houses, the Government believe it would be appropriate for the Green Paper to be considered, and for the draft Bill to be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny, by a Joint Committee, and will be holding early discussions in both Houses about the establishment of and timetable for such a Committee.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland (National Security Matters)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): The Government have received and welcomed a report from Lord Carlile of Berriew on the operation of arrangements for handling national security matters in Northern Ireland for the year to date.

Lord Carlile commends the engagement he received in producing this report which recognises that the context in which national security activities are performed in Northern Ireland is changing and challenging.

The report points out that there have been serious incidents during 2011, including the murder of PC Ronan Kerr in Omagh in April and states that the overall picture is of a very dangerous, unpredictable terrorist threat. The situation is faced with additional challenges due to the many connections which terrorists appear to have with organised crime. Lord Carlile points out that organised crime is an area which helps fund their politically motivated activities.

Lord Carlile believes that, compared with last year, this year has seen more success in containing and stabilising the threat, and notes that there have been fewer incidents and fewer major attacks. He is also satisfied that there are no difficulties of any significance in the inter-operability between the PSNI and the Security Service and identifies this is a sound working partnership and one that is to be commended.

I welcome the content of this report and have made it available to the Home Secretary. Given its sensitive nature I do not, however, intend to place copies in the Library.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Management of Payments and Arrears Amendment Regulations 2012

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Maria Miller): The Government are committed to tackling the legacy of £3.8 billion in child maintenance arrears owed by non-resident parents. They are determined to pursue every penny which can be collected, and the Child Support Agency is pursuing a range of initiatives and deploying its enforcement powers more effectively to pursue those parents who refuse to pay.

We have, however, to be mindful of the fact that not all of the arrears that are owed can realistically be collected; and indeed, not all arrears are actually wanted by the relevant parents with care.

I am therefore today publishing a consultation document on commencing powers contained within the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 to write off arrears of child maintenance in certain, limited circumstances and to accept a part payment of child maintenance in full and final satisfaction of the total amount due.

The use of the write-off power is limited—by the 2008 Act—to circumstances where it would be "unfair or otherwise inappropriate" to collect or enforce the recovery of child maintenance.

The power to accept a part payment will enable a non-resident parent to pay a proportion of the total amount due, with the full liability being treated as met. A part payment may only be accepted where the parent with care has given his or her express permission.

None of this undermines the Government's determination to pursue those parents who refuse to live up to their responsibilities. The Government believe that failure to pay child maintenance must never be considered as an option.

The consultation document and draft regulations will be available on the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC) and Department for Work and Pensions websites later today. A link to the CMEC website is attached below.

Copies of the consultation document will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/consultations.html

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 20 December 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

EU Trade Foreign Affairs Council (Post-Council Statement)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): I represented the UK at the trade session of the above Foreign Affairs Council in Geneva, Switzerland, on 14 December.

Trade Ministers met immediately before the eighth World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial conference to take a number of decisions related to the conference, notably the accessions of Russia and Samoa to the WTO and the least developed countries services waiver, as well as to approve the mandates for deep and comprehensive free trade agreements (DCFTAs) with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia.

The main items for discussion were the position to be taken by the European Union on the Doha development agenda (DDA), the future path of the WTO and the negotiations on the revision to the Government procurement agreement (GPA). There was broad agreement on the former, in particular the importance of messages on resisting protectionism, on strengthening the WTO and maintaining its relevance for tackling 21st century issues, and on the need for an active negotiating agenda in order to deliver "early harvests" of those areas that were most advanced in the DDA such as trade facilitation.

The UK, supported by the majority of member states, called for the EU to conclude the 10-year long process of reviewing the Government procurement agreement. I argued that a successful deal would pave the way for the opening of negotiations with China on its possible future accession to the GPA. I also stressed the value of obtaining a business-friendly deal at such a critical moment for the EU and the WTO.

Subsequent to the trade FAC, I represented the UK at the World Trade Organisation's eighth ministerial conference (MC8) in Geneva from 15 to 17 December.

The conference agreed to Russia's accession to the WTO after an 18-year negotiation. Agreement was also given to accession by Samoa and Montenegro. All will become members of the WTO during 2012 when domestic ratification is complete. With the approval of the accession of Vanuatu earlier this year, this will take the WTO's membership from 153 to 157. Samoa and Vanuatu are the first least developed countries (LDCs) to join since 2004.

The conference also agreed a waiver from WTO rules to allow preferential market access to LDC providers of services, extended the deadline for LDCs to bring in rules to protect intellectual property, and agreed provisions aimed at speeding up LDCs' membership negotiations. Members also reaffirmed their commitment to working towards the implementation of promises on duty free quota free access (DFQF) and cotton, first made at MC6 in Hong Kong in 2005.

Finally, the 42 signatories to the Government procurement agreement (a plurilateral agreement within the WTO framework allowing access to each others' procurement market) agreed, after 10 years of negotiation, a revision to the Agreement. The deal expanded market access within the signatories, including, for the EU, access to €100 billion-worth of PFI contracts related to reconstruction in Japan.

On the Doha development agenda negotiations the agreed chair's summary noted that negotiations were at an "impasse", that members had "significantly different perspectives", and that it was

"unlikely that all elements could be concluded simultaneously in the near future."

Despite this, Ministers remained committed to further work, to the need

"to more fully explore different negotiating approaches",

and to advancing negotiations to allow

"Members to reach provisional or definitive agreements based on consensus earlier than the full conclusion of the single undertaking"

(i.e. "early harvests").

Finally, the conference agreed to

"intensify their efforts to look into ways that may allow Members to overcome the most critical and fundamental stalemates in the areas where multilateral convergence has proven to be especially challenging".

Skills Funding and the Skills Funding Agency (Chief Executive)

The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes): Further to my announcement on 1 November, I would inform Parliament about the outcome of the review into the status of the chief executive of skills funding and the Skills Funding Agency.

The review has concluded that the existing arrangement of a statutory post holder should be replaced with a more traditional Executive agency model. This is consistent with the Government's wider commitment to improve radically the transparency and accountability for all public services, providing clarity and focus to the work of the agency and ensuring that skills and apprenticeship programmes are delivered within an overarching strategic framework set by Government.

The Skills Funding Agency will continue to play a vital role in funding the education and skills training that our country needs to tackle the very real challenges that lie ahead; and the outcome of this review reflects the Government's ongoing commitment to building on the strength of the further education system, while ensuring rigorous accountability structures are in place.

I can confirm that both the Skills Funding Agency and wider stakeholders have been fully engaged in the review process, and I will be writing to them today about the outcome of this work.

We will bring forward legislation for this change as and when parliamentary time allows.

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 30 November 2011. The following items were discussed:

Breakfast: debrief from Eurogroup meeting of 29 November and discussion of the economic situation

Council heard that Eurogroup had agreed the sixth tranche of funding for Greece under its assistance package. It also received an update on the options for leveraging the European financial stability facility. Council then discussed bank capital and funding, following up on the European Council of 26 October, and agreed that capital requirements needed to be met without deleveraging, I made it clear that if required, funding schemes needed to be at national level. This was agreed. I also called for early discussion of progress on the capital requirements directive.

Follow-up to the G20 Summit of 3-4 November in Cannes

France provided a debrief of the summit. They confirmed that the major topic of discussion had been the euro area crisis and that the EU had been urged to agree a comprehensive approach to the crisis. They also noted that the summit had discussed ways of increasing IMF resources.

Annual Growth Survey (AGS)

The Commission presented its second annual growth survey and set out five key priorities: fiscal consolidation (while taking account of the need for growth and for differentiation between member states); restoring normal lending conditions, with particular attention to SMEs; completing the single market; reforms to modernise labour resources (in particular ensuring wages better reflect productivity, improving labour mobility, and addressing youth unemployment); and efficient public administration.

Second economic governance package

The Commission presented two legislative proposals and a discussion paper. The first of the legislative proposals relates to strengthening budgetary surveillance within the euro area, particularly for member states in excessive deficit. It would require euro area member states to submit their draft national budgets to the Council and the Commission by 15 October of the preceding year for assessment. The second proposal is a draft regulation on the surveillance of euro area member states experiencing severe financial disturbance. It set out a process of more comprehensive monitoring for member states receiving a programme of financial assistance from EU and IMF-backed funds. Such monitoring could also be applied to member states not receiving assistance but considered to be at risk.

The Commission discussion paper proposed three options for stability bonds: full substitution of national issuance by stability bonds with joint and several guarantees; partial substitution of national issuance with joint and several guarantees; or partial substitution of national issuance with several but not joint guarantees. The Commission noted that stability bonds would create a deepening of economic and monetary union and this would need to be accompanied by parallel measures to strengthen economic governance. Some options would also require treaty change. The Commission said that it would prepare further steps on euro area economic governance by the end of 2011.

There was no substantive debate, particularly not on stability bonds, but a number of member states expressed support for the general principle of further strengthening euro area economic governance.

Recommendation on a nomination to the executive board of the European Central Bank

This was added to the agenda as a result of discussion over breakfast. Council adopted a recommendation on the nomination of Benoît Coeuré of France, to replace Lorenzo Bini Smaghi of Italy, who has announced his resignation.

Economic and financial impact of EU legislation

Council discussed conclusions addressing the need for impact assessments of proposed EU legislation, and for all such legislation to take account of the need to ensure sustainable public finances and create jobs and growth. The UK intervened to support the conclusions. After much discussion conclusions were agreed with a number of amendments.

Court of Auditors' 2010 Report on the EU Accounts

The President of the Court of Auditors presented its report. In the auditors' view, the budget presents fairly the position and cash flow of the EU, although there remains scope for improvement. Control systems are only partially effective and overall there has been an increase in the level of errors. The Commission highlighted that the report showed progress had been made. The UK, the Netherlands and Sweden all expressed concern at the increased error rate. The presidency noted the report, which will be further considered by Council in February 2012, when Ministers will vote on discharge of the 2010 accounts.

EU Statistics

Council adopted conclusions welcoming the report of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board and inviting the Commission to put forward proposals regarding the professional independence of national statistical authorities and EUROSTAT.

Code of Conduct (business taxation)

This item was withdrawn from the agenda by the presidency and is now expected to be considered by Council in January 2012.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service Pensions

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): On 2 November the Chief Secretary to the Treasury made a statement to the House setting out an improved offer on public service pensions to public sector workers (Cm 8214). This offer provided a more generous cost ceiling for scheme-specific discussions to work within, and protected all those within 10 years of their pension age from any further change. This generous offer was conditional on the

Government and trade unions reaching agreement by the end of the year, including in the principal civil service pension scheme, bringing to a conclusion talks that have lasted since February 2011.

Since 2 November my officials and I have been engaged in detailed and intensive talks with the National Trade Union Committee for the civil service. I can now report to the House on the heads of agreement on the scheme design for the principal civil service pension scheme to be introduced in 2015, on which talks have concluded. The Government have made it clear this sets out their final position on the main elements of scheme design, which the FDA, Prospect, GMB Prison Governors Association and the Immigration Services Union have agreed to take to their Executives as the best that can be achieved through negotiations. There is a specific outstanding issue relating to mechanisms for prison officers to retire earlier than state pension age where we are continuing to have discussions with the Prison Officers Association. We will invite these unions to join us in further work on the remaining details in the new year, and their Executives will consult members as appropriate. The continued union engagement includes a commitment to suspend any further industrial action while the final details are resolved and unions are consulting their members.

The core parameters of the new scheme are set out below:

a. a pension scheme design based on career average;

b. a provisional accrual rate of 2.28% (equivalent to 1/43.9) of pensionable earnings each year, subject to further agreement on final details.

c. revaluation of active members' benefits in line with CPI;

d. a normal pension age equal to state pension age, which applies both to active members and deferred members (for new scheme service only);

e. pensions in payment to increase in line with prices (currently CPI);

f. benefits earned in deferment to increase in line with prices (currently CPI);

g. average member contributions of 5.6%, with some protection for the lowest paid (the detailed structure of which is still to be agreed);

h. optional lump sum commutation at a rate of 12:1, in accordance with HMRC limits and regulations;

i. spouses/partner pension of three-eighths of pension, in line with the current open scheme ;

j. lump sum on death in service of two-times salary;

k. ill-health benefits in line with those in the current open scheme;

l. actuarially fair early/late retirement factors on a cost-neutral basis; and,

m. an employer contribution cap to provide backstop protection to the taxpayer against unforeseen costs and risks and allowance for an improvement in member benefits if the value of the scheme falls beyond a fixed level;

n. the scheme will support the use of partial retirement and will follow the recommended approach set out in the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission final report of 10 March 2011 on abatement (details to be finalised); and

o. a guarantee, outside of the scheme designs parameters set out above, of no further reform for the next 25 years.

Transitional arrangements

Scheme members who, as of 1 April 2012, have 10 years or less to their current pension age will see no change in when they can retire, nor any decrease in the amount of pension they receive at their current normal pension age. They will be allowed to remain members of their existing schemes up to and including the point at which they draw their pension rights and all current scheme rules will continue to apply.

Members who are within a further 3.5 years outside this protected group will have an additional degree of protection, in the form of further accrual in their existing schemes. This protection will be tapered in a linear fashion depending on the age of the member.

Areas for further detailed discussion

Discussions with the trade unions identified above will continue early next year, to shape the remaining elements of the scheme design such as abatement, re-employment, treatment of re-joiners and public sector transfers and contribution rates structures including years 2 and 3 of the employee contribution increases. Any of these issues that affect the final cost of the scheme will need to be taken into account in the final rate of benefit accrual. The requirement to fit the new scheme within the revised cost ceiling for the reference scheme published on 2 November will remain, and agreement on these issues will also be subject to review by HM Treasury to agree the approach taken to risk management and impact on cash flows.

The Government Actuary's Department has confirmed that this scheme design does not exceed the cost ceiling set by the Government on 2 November. Copies of the heads of agreement and the scheme actuary's verification have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Pension Scheme

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): On 2 November the Chief Secretary to the Treasury made a statement to the House setting out an improved offer on public service pensions to public sector workers (Cm 8214). This offer provided a more generous cost ceiling for scheme-specific discussions to work within, and protected all those within 10 years of their pension age from any further change. This generous offer was conditional on the Government and trade unions reaching agreement by the end of the year, including the local government pension scheme in England and Wales, bringing to a conclusion talks that have lasted since February 2011.

Since 2 November, I have been engaged in talks with the local government trade unions and the Local Government Association (LGA) to enable purposeful discussions on local government pensions reform. I can now report to the House on the heads of agreement signed jointly by the local government trade unions and the LGA on the principles governing the scheme design, ongoing cost management and governance of the new scheme to be introduced in 2014. Further work on these agreed principles will commence in the new year under the supervision of a newly appointed project board representing key scheme partners. The Government have made it clear this sets out their final position on the main elements of scheme design, which unions have agreed to. This includes a commitment to suspend any further industrial action while the final details are resolved and unions are consulting their members.

The core parameters of the agreed new scheme design are set out below:

a. a single solution to both the short and long term issues by the early introduction of the new scheme in April 2014, with regulations in place by April 2013;

b. the single solution to be built on the basis of career average earnings;

c. can include zero increases in employee contributions for all, or the vast majority of members, provided that overall financial constraints set by the Government are met;

d. some elements of choice to encourage retention of existing membership and encourage new membership; and

e. flexible retirement age built around the scheme's normal retirement age equal to the state pension age or age 65, whichever is later, and applies both to active members and deferred members (new scheme service only). If a member's state pension age rises, then normal pension age will do so too for all post 2015 service.

A copy of the heads of agreement has been placed in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Telecoms Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Edward Vaizey): I represented the UK at the Telecoms Council in Brussels on 13 December 2011. The meeting was chaired by the Polish presidency.

There were four substantive agenda items:

1. Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the first Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP): Adoption of Council's position at first reading. (EM 13872/10)

This item was for member states to agree to a Council position to enable a First Reading deal to be reached with the European Parliament on the Commission's proposed RSPP (EM 13872/10). The Council adopted this position without substantive comment.

2. Proposal for Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on roaming on public mobile networks within the community—Progress Report and Exchange of views (EM 12639/11 and EM 12666/11)

This item was an exchange of views based around three questions on the above proposal as detailed in my pre-Council statement and was the only item that resulted in a round-table debate. I intervened as indicated in my pre-Council statement.

The main points of the discussion were:

Most member states agreed that the aim should be to adopt the new regulation before the expiration of the current regulation to avoid any gaps in consumer protection;

Most member states would prefer a technology-neutral regulation that does not contain the technical details of the structural solutions to be adopted. Thus, any technical detail would be contained in BEREC guidance and subject to consultation with key stakeholders;

Many member states were in favour of promoting the European approach to mobile roaming regulation within worldwide forums such as the ITU. However, the UK and others noted that Europe should strive to lead by example, rather than impose its approach on the world; and

A number of member states stressed the importance of ensuring the establishment of effective competition within the EU roaming market before price caps are lifted.

3. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA—Progress Report (EM 14358/10)

This item was a progress report from the presidency (EM 14358/10). I did not intervene on this item and there were no substantive interventions from other member states.

The Commission stated that it will publish a comprehensive internet security plan during 2012, the aim of which will be to: ensure that IT-related products and services are designed to survive cyber-attacks; and ensure that member states computer emergency response teams can exchange information more freely, thus allowing them to co-operate more effectively.

4. Lunchtime discussion on the future of universal service in telecommunications, with regard to the communication of the European Commission presented in the end of November (EM 17466/11)

The Council broke after the ENISA item for lunch. During the lunch, there was a debate on the issue of whether broadband should be added to the universal service directive, with debate framed by the three questions posed by the presidency as detailed in my pre-Council statement. This debate was prompted by the publication of the Communication from the Commission on the results of the public consultation on the role of the universal service obligation in electronic communications. (EM 17466/11)

I intervened along the lines set out in my pre-Council statement. Member states generally welcomed the decision by the Commission to leave to them when to decide to introduce a universal service obligation that would include broadband.

5. Communication from the Commission on Net Neutrality —Adoption of Council conclusions (EM 9350/11).

After lunch, the Council then considered the adoption of the Council conclusions that cover the recent communication entitled "The open internet and net neutrality in Europe". (EM 9350/11). The conclusions were adopted without any substantive comment. However, I did intervene to highlight the self-regulatory initiative that UK stakeholders were engaged in.

This concluded the formal substantive business items for Council. However, there were eight items that were taken under Any Other Business. They were:

a) Digital agenda for Europe—information from the Commission (EM 9981/10).

b) Ministerial conference on perspectives for the development of the electronic communications market in the EU (Warszawa 19-20 October 2011)—information from the presidency.

c) Sixth ministerial conference e-government (Poznan 17-18 November)—information from the presidency.

d) Communication from the Commission on the results of the public consultation on the role of the universal service obligation in electronic communications (EM 17466/11).

e) Open data—an engine for innovation, growth and transparent governance—presentation by the Commission.

f) Connecting Europe facility—proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on guidelines for trans-European networks and repealing Decision No. 1336/97/EC (EM 17176/11 and EM 16006/11)—presentation by the Commission.

g) State of play on implementation of the electronics communication framework—information from the Commission.

h) Work programme of the incoming presidency—information by the Danish delegation.

My only intervention under AOB was on item a. I intervened as per my pre-Council statement by stating that the Commission should bring forward actions that lead to the creation of a true pan-European digital single market. Other member states including Denmark, Netherlands and Sweden also highlighted the importance of this issue during similar interventions.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Covenant

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Philip Hammond): Our armed forces make great sacrifices on the nation's behalf, not only on operations overseas, but in their service in the UK too. This Government recognise that the nation in turn has a responsibility properly to support them and their families. That is why the Armed Forces Act 2011 recognises the armed forces covenant in law for the first time, and creates an obligation on the Defence Secretary to publish an annual armed forces covenant report.

The Government are today publishing an interim armed forces covenant annual report, in advance of the statutory requirement created by the Act. It has been compiled in consultation with the covenant reference group, which brings together officials from across Government with service charities and family federations. The interim report covers the full scope of the armed forces covenant, published on 16 May 2011, and provides a baseline for future statutory reports.

On 16 May 2011 we also published "The Armed Forces Covenant: Today and Tomorrow", copies of which are available in the Library of the House. This document outlines the commitments made by the Government in support of the covenant. In contrast, today's interim report is focused on recording progress and a broad survey of areas of interest and concern. These include housing, education, health care and the operation of inquests, as the statutory armed forces covenant report will from next year. It also considers whether our service men and women are disadvantaged in their ability to access public services, or whether in any areas there is a case that special treatment is justified, and again the statutory report will do the same.

Overall the report makes clear that while more can and will be done, much has been achieved since the coalition programme for government was published:

We have doubled the tax free operational allowance so that those serving on eligible operations now receive a lump sum of just over £5,000 for a six-month tour;

We have improved rest and recuperation leave for those on operations;

We have endorsed the proposals by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison), for making improvements in mental health care provision, the majority of which have been implemented fully, and the provision of enhanced prosthetic services for military amputees;

We have delivered a scheme to provide scholarships to bereaved service children—to date a total of 22 further education and 61 higher education scholarships have been awarded for academic years 2010-11 and 2011-12;

We have delivered more help for those leaving the service to go on to higher/further education—not least through payment of tuition fees, which has been extended to the spouses or partners taking up the entitlement because of bereavement or injury of a discharged service person;

We have introduced the pupil premium for the children of those currently serving (£200 per child, rising to £250 next year), amounting to £9 million for 2011-12. In addition, we have made available £3 million per year for state schools with service children, including those of reservists. Since the launch of this fund, 139 bids from schools have been approved, amounting to £2.9 million for this financial year;

We have announced a community covenant scheme supported by a £30 million community covenant fund. Over 20 councils have signed a covenant with the armed forces community in their areas, with more planned in the coming months. More than £750,000 has already been released to support local projects, with further bidding rounds taking place quarterly;

We have doubled council tax relief for those on eligible operations overseas;

We are working with credit reference agencies to ensure service people are not disadvantaged by mobility requirements in accessing credit.

Recognising the key role played by the covenant reference group, the Government have committed themselves to publishing, alongside the annual report, any observations which the external members of the group might have on it. The external members have offered their observations on this interim report, and they are reproduced within it. They have drawn attention not only to the progress which has been made, but also to how much remains to be done. The Government welcome their constructive input and will take careful note of the points made. We are extremely grateful to them for their continued engagement and assistance, as we jointly take work forward on the armed forces covenant.

The armed forces covenant is a matter for the whole of Government, and sustained progress requires both close collaboration across Whitehall and clear ministerial leadership. My right hon. Friends, the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, have therefore agreed to establish a new ministerial Committee, led by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office, the Minister with responsibility for Government policy, the right hon. Member for West Dorset (Mr Letwin) to oversee this work and ensure that momentum is maintained. The Prime Minister will chair the first meeting of this new Committee early next year. This new forum will work closely with the covenant reference group, whose key roles, including monitoring progress and holding the Government to account, will be unchanged. I will chair an annual joint meeting between the two bodies to ensure that the covenant reference group have the opportunity to engage with Ministers directly.

EDUCATION

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Sarah Teather): I am today publishing the Government response to the consultation on the early years foundation stage (EYFS).

The consultation has shown broad support for the Government's proposals for a reformed EYFS, implementing the recommendations of Dame Clare Tickell's independent review. The reforms will reduce paperwork and bureaucracy for professionals; focus attention on the areas most essential for children's healthy development; support early intervention with children who face difficulties; and secure a stronger partnership with parents.

The Government response confirms our plans, including simplified assessment at age five and a new progress check for children aged 24 to 36 months, focused on the most important areas of children's development. We also set out how we propose to refine the early learning goals (in particular literacy and maths), and minor changes to the guidance on assessment at age five to ensure it is relevant to all children including those with special educational needs and disabilities.

I am launching an additional one-month consultation on the EYFS early learning goals and educational programmes, and the relevant statutory instrument. This further consultation is required by the Childcare Act 2006.

The new early years framework is an important element in our plans to ensure families in the foundation years are supported, to give children the best possible start in life, and ensure that all children have the knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for their future progress through school and life. The revised EYFS statutory framework (and the associated regulations) will be published in spring, to enable schools and other providers to prepare for implementation of the new EYFS from September 2012.

I have placed a copy of the Government response in the Libraries of both Houses.

Reform of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales)

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): On 2 November the Chief Secretary to the Treasury made a statement to the House setting out an improved offer on public service pensions to public sector workers (Cm 8214). This offer provided a more generous cost ceiling for scheme-specific discussions to work within, and protected all those within 10 years of their pension age from any further change. This generous offer was conditional on the Government and trade unions reaching agreement by the end of the year, including in the teachers' pension scheme, bringing to a conclusion talks that have lasted since February 2011.

Since 2 November I have been engaged in detailed and intensive talks with the teacher and lecturer trade unions and employer representatives. I can now report to the House on the heads of agreement on the scheme design for the teachers' pension scheme to be introduced in 2015, on which talks have concluded. The Government have made it clear this sets out their final position on the main elements of scheme design, which unions have agreed to take to their Executives as the outcome of negotiations on the main elements of scheme design. This includes a commitment to seek Executives' agreement to the suspension of any industrial action on pension reform while the final details are being resolved. Further detailed work will take place in the new year and Executives will consult members as appropriate.

The agreement includes changes to the Government's reference scheme to reflect the priorities of the teaching profession in relation to early retirement and other issues, consistent with the need to remain within the Government's overall cost ceiling.

The agreement reached allows for further discussions on variations to the balance between the accrual rate and the career average revalued earnings revaluation factor within the limits of the Government's cost ceiling.

The core parameters of the new scheme are set out below:

a. a pension scheme design based on career average;

b. a provisional accrual rate of 1/57th of pensionable earnings each year, and the resolution of outstanding issues not covered by this agreement.

c. revaluation of active members' benefits in line with CPI + 1.6%.

d. normal pension age equal to state pension age, which applies both to active members and deferred members (new scheme service only);

e. pensions in payment to increase in line with prices index (currently CPI);

f. benefits earned in deferment to increase in line with CPI;

g. average member contributions of 9.6%, with some protection for the lowest paid;

h. optional lump sum commutation at a rate of 12:1, in accordance with HMRC limits and regulations;

i. spouses/partner pension in accordance with current provisions;

j. lump sum on death in service of three times FTE salary;

k. ill-health benefits the same as those in the current open scheme;

l. actuarially fair early/late retirement factors on a cost-neutral basis except for those with a NPA above age 65, who will have early retirement factors of 3% per year for a maximum of three years in respect of the period from age 65 to their NPA; and

m. an employer cost cap to provide backstop protection to the taxpayer against unforeseen costs and risks.

The Government Actuary's Department has confirmed that this scheme design does not exceed the cost ceiling set by the Government on 2 November. Copies of the heads of agreement and GAD verification have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Canal and River Trust (Transfer Order)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): On 12 September 2011, I launched a supplementary consultation on the detail of the order to transfer the functions of British Waterways (BW) in England and Wales to a new waterways charity, the Canal & River Trust (CRT). The consultation closed on 24 October 2011.

Today, I am announcing the publication of the Government's response to this consultation, which is available at http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/closed/.

The consultation asked for views on the detail of certain aspects of the transfer order. The majority of responses to the consultation supported the overall

direction of the Government's proposals, and, subject to obtaining parliamentary approval in due course, the Government intend to proceed as follows:

We will remove the ministerial power to direct disposal of property under the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980, since it will not be needed by the CRT;

We will not extend the provisions in the Transport Acts 1962 and 1968 on employment to the CRT, on the basis that they have largely been replaced by more recent employment legislation;

We will amend sections 104 and 105 of the TransportAct 1968 to give the CRT an enhanced "statutory proposer" role in relation to ministerial orders on classification and maintenance of its waterways;

We will amend section 27 of the Transport Act 1962 to restrict the power of direction to circumstances in the interests of national defence;

We will not apply the House of Commons Disquaification Act 1975; Scottish Parliament (Disqualification) Order 2010; National Assembly for Wales (Disqualification) Order 2010 or the Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975 to the trustees of the CRT, because this would not be appropriate for trustees of a charitable body.

In addition, the Government intend, also subject to parliamentary approval, to apply the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to the CRT, in respect of all those statutory functions that the CRT will inherit from BW through the proposed transfer order. This limited application of the FOIA will have the effect of excluding from the provisions of the Act those broader charitable functions carried out by the CRT. It will also exclude bodies that merge with the CRT, unless the FOIA already applies or is made to apply to them at the point of merger.

Recognising that, as concerns administrative burdens, this will initially put CRT in a potentially disadvantageous position with regard to other statutory navigation authorities, the Government will, within two years, launch a procedure, under section 5 of the FOIA, to consider extending the provisions of the Act to other statutory navigation authorities, with the intention of creating a level playing field.

In these circumstances, the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs) may be considered to apply to the CRT to the extent that the CRT is carrying out "functions of public administration". Ultimately, this will be a question for the courts to decide. In the meantime, I have asked the CRT trustees to make a public commitment to adopt a transparency policy that closely follows the provisions of the EIRs; we are seeking to capture this commitment in the funding agreement being negotiated between DEFRA and the CRT trustees.

The Government's response also includes, by agreement, the Scottish Government's response to the Scottish issues raised in the consultation.

HEALTH

NHS Pension Scheme

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): On 2 November the Chief Secretary to the Treasury made a statement to the House setting out an improved offer on public service pensions to public sector workers (Cm 8214). This offer provided a more generous cost ceiling for scheme-specific discussions to work within, and protected all those within 10 years of their pension age from any further change. This generous offer was conditional on the Government and trade unions reaching agreement by the end of the year, including in the NHS pension scheme, bringing to a conclusion talks that have lasted since February 2011.

Since 2 November I have been engaged in detailed and intensive talks with the health trade unions and employer representatives. I can now report to the House on the heads of agreement on the scheme design for the NHS pension scheme to be reached in 2015, on which talks have concluded. The Government have made it clear this sets out their final position on the main elements of scheme design, which unions have agreed to take to their Executives as the best that can be achieved through negotiations. Further work on the remaining details will take place in the new year, and Executives will consult members as appropriate. This includes a commitment to suspend any further industrial action while the final details are resolved and unions are consulting their members.

The main parameters of the new scheme are set out below:

a. a pension scheme design based on career average ;

b. a provisional accrual rate of 1/54th of pensionable earnings each year, subject to further agreement on outstanding issues not covered by this agreement (see annex A);

c. revaluation of active members' benefits in line with CPI plus 1.5% per annum;

d. a normal pension age equal to the state pension age, which applies both to active members and deferred members (new scheme service only). If a member's SPA rises, then NPA will do so too for all post 2015 service. Those within 10 years of NPA are excluded and accrued rights will also be related to existing NPA;

e. pensions in payment to increase in line with prices index (currently CPI);

f. benefits to increase in any period of deferment in line with prices index (currently CPI);

g. average member contributions of 9.8%, with tiered contributions. Member contributions in year 1 to increase between 0% and 2.4% in year 1. There will be no increase in year 1 for staff with WTE pensionable pay less than £26,557. There will be further discussions on contribution rates and increases in years 2 and 3;

h. optional lump sum commutation at a rate of £12 of lump sum for every £1 per annum of pension foregone in accordance with HMRC limits and regulations;

i. early/late retirement factors on an actuarially neutral basis;

j. ill-health retirement pensions to be based on the current ill-health retirement arrangements but with enhancement for higher tier awards to be at the rate of 50% of prospective service to normal pension age;

k. spouse and partner pensions to continue to be based on an accrual rate of 1/160th. For deaths in retirement spouse and partner pensions will remain based on pre-commuted pension;

l. an employer contribution cap as detailed in the heads of agreement.

There will be transitional protection:

all accrued rights are protected and those past benefits will be linked to final salary when members leave the scheme;

all active NHS pension scheme members who as of 1 April 2012, have 10 years or less to their current pension age, including MHOs and members of the special classes will see no change in when they can retire, nor any decrease in the

amount of pension they receive at their current normal pension age. This will be achieved by allowing such members to remain in their current arrangements until they retire (for 2008 members until they have taken all their 2008 pension benefits);

members who are within a further 3.5 years of their normal pension age, (i.e. up to 13.5 years from their NPA) will have limited protection with linear tapering so that for every month of age that they are beyond 10 years of their normal pension age, they lose two months of protection. At the end of the protected period, they will be transferred into the new pension arrangements; and

the costs associated with the protection outlined above sit outside the costs of the reference scheme.

On the basis that the scheme design within the heads of agreement is agreed, the Government agree to retain fair deal provision and extend access to public service pension schemes for transferring staff. This means that all staff whose employment is compulsorily transferred from the NHS under TUPE, including subsequent TUPE transfers, will still be able to retain membership of the NHS pension scheme when transferred. These arrangements will replace the current provisions for bulk transfers under fair deal, which will no longer apply. In addition, a partnership review of the implementation of the provisions set out in this paragraph for staff working in "Any Qualified Providers" (AQP) will be carried out.

The Government Actuary's Department has confirmed that this scheme design does not exceed the cost ceiling set by the Government on 2 November. Copies of the heads of agreement and GAD verification have been placed in the Library.

Public Health System

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): Today I am publishing policy updates on the new public health system, covering local government's new public health functions and the operating model for Public Health England (PHE). Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, PHE will be established in April 2013.

The Government have an ambitious programme to improve public health through strengthening local action, supporting self-esteem and behavioural changes, promoting healthy choices and changing the environment to support healthier lives.

The updates define the Government's plans, set out in the White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England", in November 2010, to change the way public health is delivered nationally through establishing Public Health England as an executive agency and locally, through moving responsibility and accountability for public health to local government.

These reforms will see local authorities taking the lead for improving health and co-ordinating local efforts to protect the public's health and well-being, and ensuring health services effectively promote population health. Local political leadership will be central to making this work.

In addition, a new executive agency, Public Health England will:

deliver services: health protection, public health information and intelligence, and services for the public through social marketing and behavioural insight activities;

lead for public health by encouraging transparency and accountability, building the evidence base, building relationships promoting public health; and

support the development of the specialist and wider public health work force by appointing directors of public health with local authorities, supporting excellence in public health practice and bringing together the wider range of public health professionals.

The NHS will continue to play a full role in providing care, tackling inequalities and ensuring every clinical contact counts.

In "Healthy Lives, Health People: update and way forward", published in July 2011, we included commissioning of termination of pregnancies as one of the areas for which local authorities will be responsible. I have now reflected further on whether it would be appropriate for local authorities to be responsible for commissioning procedures that will involve surgical procedures and the associated need for strong clinical governance arrangements to ensure people receive a safe, legal service. I therefore intend to consult on whether commissioning termination of pregnancies should in the longer term be the responsibility of clinical commissioning groups or local authorities. In the interim, as a practical measure, CCGs will be responsible for commissioning these services for April 2013.

The update documents have been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office. The updates are also available at http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/category/public-health.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Rules of Engagement (HMIC Review of August 2011 Disorders)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): On 15 August I wrote to ask Her Majesty's chief inspector of constabulary, Sir Denis O'Connor, to undertake a review of public order policing and to consider further work to support clearer guidance to forces on the size of deployments, the need for mutual aid, pre-emptive action, public order tactics, the number of officers (including commanders) trained in public order policing and an appropriate arrests policy. I am pleased to be able to tell the House that HMIC has concluded its review and have today published its report, entitled "The Rules of Engagement: A Review of the August 2011 Disorders".

HMIC recognises that the events of August 2011 were

"unparalleled in terms of speed, scale and geographical spread of disorder".

HMIC also recognises the achievements of the police in bringing the disorder under control and in particular, the individual acts of bravery displayed by police officers across the country.

The report confirms that the initial response, in particular to the disorder which broke out in Tottenham, was too slow. This has been acknowledged in the interim reports released by the crime and victims panel and by the Metropolitan police themselves.

This review makes a number of interrelated recommendations which will require careful and serious consideration by the Government and the police service working together. This work will be aligned with the development of the strategic policing requirement.

The way in which the police respond to public disorder is a matter of key public interest. The August disturbances brought havoc to some of our cities and communities. HMIC has, in a short period of time, produced a wide-ranging and detailed report and this is to be commended. The report contains a significant amount of detail and evidence which will require detailed assessment by the Government and the police service as a whole.

A copy of this report will be placed in Library of the House.

SCOTLAND

Energy Towing Vessels

The Secretary of State for Scotland (Michael Moore): On 10 October 2011, I announced to the House that the Scotland Office would lead efforts to secure a long-term replacement for the emergency towing vessels (ETV) service in waters surrounding the Northern Isles and Western Isles. Extensive discussions have since taken place with a very wide range of interested parties, including senior representatives of the oil and shipping industries as well as public sector organisations.

I am pleased to confirm that the north sea oil industry, led by Oil & Gas UK and its member companies, has indicated its willingness to offer support by establishing a call-off arrangement for their chartered vessels to be deployed in support of HM coastguard in the event of an emergency. Detailed work is under way between operators, vessel owners and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on working practices and necessary protocols governing the arrangements. During the last meeting of the Scottish ETV working group, I discussed the matter in depth with Oil & Gas UK, local authorities and other interested parties who have responded positively to this proposal. With that in mind, I have instructed that work should proceed quickly with a view to putting a framework in place as early as possible in the new year.

This is a very positive development offering additional reassurance to local communities, particularly those in the Northern Isles. This step also demonstrates active support by the oil industry for corporate social responsibility and I greatly welcome their helpful contribution and constructive engagement.

The Government intend to use the remainder of the £3 million funding provided by the Department for Transport to maintain cover until no later than 31 March 2012. Further work will continue with local authorities along the west coast to examine all viable long-term options for those waters, and I will reconvene a further meeting of the working group early in the new year.

Petition

Monday 5 December 2011

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Antibiotic Action Initiative

The Petition of supporters of Antibiotic Action, a national initiative of the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that the treatment of common and serious bacterial infections will be seriously compromised unless urgent steps are taken to stimulate investment in the discovery and development of new antibiotics, further declares that to support the discovery, development and bringing-to-market of new antibacterial agents, opportunities should be identified to safely streamline and accelerate the licensing processes for new antibiotics; declares that the commercial challenges faced by industry in developing and bringing new antibiotics to the marketplace should be addressed, and declares that more partnership between academia and pharmaceutical and diagnostics companies in the UK should be encouraged, in order to maximise the conversion of discovered-candidate molecules into licensed antibiotics available for use on the NHS.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to review the licensing processes for new antibiotics, conduct a review of the commercial challenges faced by the pharmaceutical industry in developing and bringing new antibiotics to the marketplace and encourage more partnership between academia and pharmaceutical and diagnostics companies in the UK.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Kevin Barron, Official Report,* 15 November 2011; Vol. 535, c. 812.]

[P000983]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health, received 2 December 2011:

Antibiotic resistance is a complex global public health issue. To tackle it effectively requires an integrated approach at national, European and International level.

The UK is signed up to the WHO European Strategic Action Plan on Antibiotic Resistance which encourages the sharing of information, developing effective interventions to prevent and slow down the development of multi-resistant bacteria and working together to stimulate the development of new drugs and diagnostics.

The Government recognise that the importance of antibiotics in the treatment of resistant bacterial infections and are focusing their efforts at a national level on monitoring infections, promoting responsible prescribing and use of antibiotics as well as good infection control measures.

Work to improve the licensing process is already underway with the development of a revised guideline on new antibacterial clinical development. We are also pursing national initiatives to improve prescribing practice by healthcare professionals through the development of guidance such as the new "Start Smart Then Focus" and further guidance for GPs which will be published next year, as well as work which is being progressed through the Technology Strategy Board to help stimulate new developments for example in diagnostics. In addition, we are working with partners to explore how best to stimulate development of new antibiotic drugs.

We are also pushing for concerted action at an EU and international level and expect the recently published European strategic action plan to facilitate greater research collaboration with industry and others and build on the recommendations of the Transatlantic Taskforce on Antimicrobial Resistance (TATFAR).

Petitions

Tuesday 6 December 2011

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Closure of Liverpool Coastguard Station

The Petition of residents of Merseyside,

Declares that the closure of Liverpool Coastguard Station would result in the loss of vital local knowledge and a reduction in the efficiency of rescues of people in difficulty along our coastline and at sea.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to ensure that Liverpool Coastguard Station remains open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bill Esterson, Official Report,* 26 October 2011; Vol. 534, c. 435.]

[P000973]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Having decided in July that one coastguard centre from each existing operational pair should remain open in the new coastguard rescue co-ordination structure, the Government consulted specifically on whether there were factors that would suggest that Liverpool should be retained in preference to the centre at Holyhead. Consultation ended on 6 October. No new and compelling arguments were put forward and the Government therefore announced on 22 November that given the concerns raised after the first round of consultation about the importance of familiarity with Welsh place names, it would be right to retain a rescue co-ordination function at the Holyhead centre. However, there will still be a coastguard and MCA presence at the Liverpool site in support of the volunteer Coastguard Rescue Service and the existing local Marine Office.

Swansea Coastguard Station

The Petition of residents of the constituency of Blaenau Gwent,

Declares that there is a fierce reaction to the wholly unexpected proposed closure of the Swansea Coastguard Station, which will affect 28 staff, and declares that the Petitioners fear that lives will be put at risk if the proposal goes ahead, as the Petitioners are unconvinced that new technology would be an adequate substitute for close proximity between the coastguard and other emergency services.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to reconsider the decision to close Swansea Coastguard Station and ensure that a coastguard station remains at Swansea.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Nick Smith, Official Report,* 14 November 2011; Vol. 535, c. 663.]

[P000975]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Having decided in July that one coastguard centre from each existing operational pair should remain open in the new coastguard rescue co-ordination structure, the Government consulted specifically on whether there were factors that would suggest that Swansea should be retained in preference to the centre at Milford Haven. Consultation ended on 6 October. No new and compelling arguments were put forward and the Government therefore announced on 22 November that given the Department for Transport's existing employment profile in the Swansea area, it would be right to retain a rescue co-ordination function at the Milford Haven centre. However, there will still be a coastguard presence at the Swansea site in support of the volunteer Coastguard Rescue Service.

Petitions

Thursday 8 December 2011

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

HMS Concord

The Petition of William Leitch,

Declares that the Petitioner believes that it is a grievous injustice that the 1949 ship's complement of HMS Concord were not recognised as a unit involved in the 1949 Yangtze campaign, due to what the Petitioner believes was a wrongful omission of important relevant documents relating to the role of HMS Concord between 28 and 31 July 1949, and declares that the Petitioner believes that those who served on HMS Concord between 28 and 31 July 1949 deserve justice, remedy and reparation.

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons sets up a Select Committee to conduct a comprehensive enquiry into the role of HMS Concord in the Yangtze campaign between 28 and 31 July 1949.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.—*[Presented by Graeme Morrice.]*

[P000987]

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Proposed cuts to BBC Radio Merseyside

The Petition of listeners to BBC Radio Merseyside,

Declares that the Petitioners oppose the 20% cut to BBC Radio Merseyside's budget proposed by the BBC management; that the Petitioners note that BBC Radio Merseyside is the most listened to of the BBC's 39 local radio stations outside of London with over 300,000 listeners who tune in for an average of 16.2 hours per week to popular programmes such as the Roger Phillips Show and the Billy Butler Show; further note that there are more staff at Radio 4 who work on the You and Yours programme than the whole of the current team of BBC Radio Merseyside; and that the Petitioners believe any efficiency savings should be fairly distributed, protecting local services and jobs where possible, in order to guarantee quality of programming which remains locally relevant and to preserve a service that is depended on by millions of listeners up and down the country, rather than maintaining the budgets of bigger channels and national radio stations.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage the BBC to reconsider its cuts to BBC local radio.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Luciana Berger, Official Report,* 18 October 2011; Vol. 533, c. 869.]

[P000965]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport:

The Government understand the important role BBC Radio Merseyside plays in the lives of its listeners. Its contribution to culture and life across the region to which it broadcasts is widely recognised.

The BBC is looking closely at what it does and how it should prioritise its resources in future. It is right that the BBC (like other parts of the public sector) should be expected to make savings. How best to achieve that, whilst securing the interests of viewers and listeners, is a matter for the BBC Trust. The BBC is operationally and editorially independent of Government under the terms of the BBC's Charter and Agreement, and there is no provision for the Government to intervene in its day-to-day operations.

Delivering Quality First has been and will continue to be subject to extensive scrutiny by the BBC and the BBC Trust. The Government notes that the BBC's proposals are subject to a full public consultation by the BBC Trust. This gives the public an opportunity to respond and put their views to the BBC. Details are available at http://consultations.external.bbc.co.uk/bbc/dqf/. The consultation closes on 21 December 2011.

Petitions

Monday 12 December 2011

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Proposed Development on Coastal Road, Bolton-le-Sands (Lancashire)

The Petition of residents of Bolton-le-Sands and others,

Declares that the Petitioners are opposed to planning application 10/00830/0UT, relating to a proposed development on Coastal Road, Bolton-le-Sands, as the Petitioners believe that there is no demand for any further development in the area as many properties are not fully occupied and many are already on the market; that there are insufficient employment opportunities in the area for any incoming inhabitants; that there is insufficient space in local schools for incoming children; that there will be increased pressure on what the Petitioners believe are already overstretched local NHS services; that the development will change the character of the area, with a detrimental impact on the landscape and residential amenities, including causing the loss of open spaces that enhance the quality of life of everyone in the area; that the development will cause a loss of grazing land and essential hedgerow habitats; that the development presents a risk to the canal and species in the canal ecosystem; that the development will result in the joining up of the villages of Bolton-le-Sands and Hest Bank and that there will be an increase in vehicular traffic on already busy roads, particularly on Coastal Road which has seen numerous accidents in recent years.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to use any means possible to overturn the decision of Lancaster City Council to approve the development on Coastal Road, Bolton-le-Sands.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by David Morris, Official Report,* 24 November 2011; Vol. 536, c. 562.]

[P000986]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, received 9 December 2011:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware that a planning application was submitted to Lancaster City Council in respect of the above development. He is advised that on 14 November the council resolved to grant planning permission subject to a section 106 legal agreement being signed.

The Secretary of State might decide to call-in an application for his own determination if he considers that it raises matters of more than local importance, but his policy is to be very selective about this. The Government are committed to give more power to councils and communities to make their own decisions on planning issues, and believe planning decisions should be made at the local level wherever possible.

The Secretary of State has carefully considered this application but in his opinion, the proposals do not: involve a conflict with national policies on important matters; have significant effects beyond their immediate locality; give rise to substantial regional or national controversy; raise significant architectural and urban design issues; or involve the interests of national security or of foreign Governments. Nor does he consider that there is any other sufficient reason to call the application in for his own determination. He has therefore decided the application should be determined at local level, and has not called it in.

The decision as to whether to grant planning permission will therefore remain with the council.

JUSTICE

Sentencing (Knife Crime)

The Petition of residents of the London Borough of Enfield,

Declares that the creation of a new offence of using a knife to threaten or endanger a person is welcome, as is the proposal to introduce a mandatory six month custodial sentence for those convicted of this offence; further declares that the new offence and sentence is only set to apply to those over 18 years of age, despite serious knife crimes being committed in this borough and elsewhere by people younger than 18.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Justice to give urgent consideration to amendments to ensure that the new offence also applies to under 18s.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Nick de Bois, Official Report,* 21 October 2011; Vol. 533, c. 1249.]

[P000970]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:

The Government are determined to tackle the scourge of knife crime that can blight people's lives. This is why new offences of using an article with a blade or point or offensive weapon to threaten another person and cause an immediate risk of serious physical harm to that other person are being introduced in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

When introduced in the Bill the offences applied a minimum custodial sentence of six months' imprisonment for an adult but did not apply a minimum sentence to juveniles aged under 18 years.

In the light of concerns raised about the need to send a clear message to under-18s that the Government consider knife crime unacceptable, the Secretary of State for Justice has decided that it is appropriate to extend a minimum custodial sentence of a four-month detention and training order to 16 and 17-year-olds found guilty of these new offences. Amendments providing for this were tabled on 31 October 2011 in the House of Commons Report Stage of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

As has been the case for mandatory sentences other than murder, these provisions allow for a court to disapply the minimum sentence where the particular circumstances of the case, which for a 16 or 17-year-old will include having regard to the welfare of the child, would make it unjust to apply it.

The Government concluded it is right to apply a minimum custodial sentence to 16 and 17-year-olds for these aggravated knife offences which risk serious physical harm, but do not consider it appropriate to apply this to younger children who may be dealt with more effectively within the community. This does not mean that younger children will not get custody but that the court will decide on the basis of the individual case what penalty should apply.

Petition

Tuesday 13 December 2011

OBSERVATIONS

JUSTICE

Legal Aid for Gypsies and Travellers

The Petition of the Community Law Partnership on behalf of Gypsies and Travellers,

Declares that the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, if brought into force, will have disastrous effects on the provision of advice and representation to Gypsies and Travellers on accommodation issues. Gypsies and Travellers are one of the most disadvantaged groups in the United Kingdom. The Bill denies them access to the legal advice and assistance which is available to any other group. It is due to the failures of successive central and local governments to ensure adequate site provision that some 25% of the Gypsy and Traveller population who live in caravans are on unauthorised encampments and unauthorised developments. This is through no fault of their own.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to ensure that legal aid in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill is available for Gypsies and Travellers to defend evictions from unauthorised encampments and to be advised and represented in the County Court and High Court planning matters.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Jeremy Corbyn, Official Report,* 14 November 2011; Vol. 535, c. 664.]

[P000982]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:

The Government recognise that the Community Law Partnership is concerned about the potential impact on Gypsies and Travellers of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

Under the Bill, legal aid will generally continue to be available for any person facing repossession or eviction from a property or site where they are residing. Advice and representation will therefore continue to be available for planning matters in the County Court and High Court where that matter might result in the individual being legally required to leave their home or the land on which their home is situated.

However, the Government do not believe that providing legal aid funding for possession and eviction matters is a justifiable use of taxpayers' money where the individual entered, and has remained on, the property or site as a trespasser.

Legal aid will also be retained for most judicial reviews.

The Government consider that the Bill's proposed changes to the provision of legal aid are necessary and proportionate to the Government's objective of targeting legal aid to those who need it most whilst achieving a more affordable legal aid system.

In addition, the Government are encouraging local authorities to provide an appropriate number of Traveller sites that reflect local and historic demand. Work is also under way to explore incentives for site provision and innovative ways to fund and maintain traveller sites.

Petitions

Monday 19 December 2011

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Movement of Permanent Secretaries in Anguilla

The Petition of members of the Anguillan community resident in the UK,

Declares that the Petitioners oppose the transfer of Permanent Secretaries in Anguilla at such a time when the Anguillan economy is struggling, and that the Petitioners believe that it is essential that the expert Permanent Secretaries in Anguilla stay in their posts in order to meet the demands of the Foreign and Commonwealth office to balance the budget by 2013.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to ask the Governor of Anguilla to ensure that current Anguillan Permanent Secretaries remain in their posts.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000995]

OBSERVATIONS

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Blaydon Races 150th Anniversary

The Humble Petition of the organising group of the Blaydon Races 150th Anniversary Campaign, namely Mr Steven Campion, Mr David Minikin, Mr Aidan Oswell, Mrs Lisa Christer Ovenden, Mr Andrew Ridley and Mr Anthony Pearson,

Sheweth,

that the Petitioners are campaigning to encourage all those who cherish the history, culture and traditions of their beloved Tyneside to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mr George Ridley's famous Blaydon Races anthem in June 2012.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House will urge the Government to actively encourage the local authorities of Gateshead and Newcastle upon Tyne to work together to co-ordinate a properly-scaled programme of appropriate celebrations.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Chi Onwurah, Official Report,* 9 November 2011; Vol. 535, c. 410.]

[P000979]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport:

The Government are wholly committed to arts and culture and Ministers are determined to do everything they can to support cultural activity, across all the regions of England. Central Government funding for the arts comes primarily through Arts Council England (ACE), which makes funding decisions at arm's length from Government. Ultimately it is for organisations like ACE, or for local authorities such as Newcastle or Gateshead Council to make funding decisions based on the needs and priorities of the local area as they know the needs of their area better than central Government.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 5 December 2011

WALES

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by her Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84217]

Mr David Jones: As at 30 November 2011, there were four staff employed in the Communications team. They each have a mix of duties and so do not fall readily into the roles referred to in the question.

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what receptions and events have been hosted by her Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by third parties. [84216]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have hosted the following receptions and events:

16 December 2010: LATCH charity Christmas reception

1 March 2011: St. David's Day reception

1 March 2011: LATCH charity St. David's Day reception.

The following events were sponsored by a third party:

13 July 2010: BBC Cymru Wales reception

13 October 2010: Older People's Commissioner for Wales reception

6 November 2010: Wales in London reception

28 February 2011: Community Foundation in Wales reception

21 March 2011: University of Wales Cybersecurity Summit reception

29 June 2011: National Museum of Wales reception

9 November 2011: CBI Wales/Sainsbury dinner

21 November 2011: Probation Trust Wales reception.

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether any senior staff in her Department are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if she will publish her policy on such payments. [85069]

Mr David Jones: No, all staff in the Wales Office have their salaries paid into their personal bank accounts.

Departmental Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85055]

Mr David Jones: The following table shows the number of named day PQs that received a substantive answer within five working days of the date specified.

	Named day PQs
June 2011	4
July 2011	2
August 2011	—
September 2011	—
October 2011	2
November 2011	4
Total	12 (100%)

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Severn River Crossing

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the 2012 toll rise for the Severn river crossings. [84969]

Mrs Gillan: The toll level for the Severn river crossings is set by a prearranged statutory formula set out in the Severn Bridges Act 1992 and rises automatically each year in line with inflation.

Students: Loans

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Welsh Government on the availability of the tuition fees subsidy for Welsh students to students from other EU countries studying in England. [84487]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have regular discussions with the Welsh Government on a wide range of issues. Policy on tuition fees is devolved to the Welsh Government and as such we have not discussed the availability of the tuition fees subsidy for Welsh students to students from other EU countries studying in England.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Correspondence

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to respond to the e-mail of 22 June 2011 from St Hild's School in Hartlepool constituency on lowering the voting age. [84005]

The Prime Minister: A reply has been sent.

Departmental Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Prime Minister what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85066]

The Prime Minister: All named day written parliamentary questions received a substantive answer within five working days.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Prime Minister when he plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 18 October 2011 with regard to Mr A Challenger. [85149]

The Prime Minister: A reply has been sent.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Air Passenger Duty

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has made to HM Treasury on the rate of air passenger duty for direct long-haul passengers departing from airports in Northern Ireland. [84403]

Mr Paterson: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Norwich North (Miss Smith), on 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 57WS. This set out the Government's position which the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), confirmed again in the autumn statement on 29 November 2011.

Corporation Tax

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what his policy is on the devolution of powers relating to corporation tax to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive; [84404]

(2) what discussions he has had with HM Treasury on the devolution of powers over corporation tax to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive. [84405]

Mr Swire: The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Shropshire (Mr Paterson), and I have had regular discussions with ministerial colleagues in HM Treasury on the potential benefits of devolving the power to vary corporation tax rates to the Northern Ireland Assembly. A ministerial working group will meet for the first time on 15 December 2011 to consider in detail the issues raised in response to the recent Government consultation on this issue. The work to be undertaken by this group is necessary to inform any decision on the devolution of powers relating to corporation tax.

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what receptions and events have been hosted by his Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by third parties. [84210]

Mr Swire: Since May 2010, my Department has hosted three receptions. The Northern Ireland Office also manages Hillsborough castle which is used to host garden parties and is also available for use by other Government Departments, community groups and charities.

Departmental Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84226]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of the devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010.

Since 12 April 2010, as a small Department of less than 200 staff, the Northern Ireland Office receives a range of corporate services under service level agreements from other Departments. It has not outsourced any services to providers outside the civil service.

Departmental Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85062]

Mr Paterson: The following table shows the number of named day PQs that received a substantive answer within five working days of the date specified.

2011	*Named day PQs*
June	5
July	11
August	—
September	2
October	0
November	6
Total (Number)	24
Total (Percentage)	96

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions

with a communications remit were employed by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84214]

David Mundell: As of 1 November 2011, the Scotland Office employed a head of communications and a chief press officer on a permanent basis.

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what receptions and events have been hosted by his Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by third parties. [84213]

David Mundell: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Date	*Event*
13 May 2010	University of Edinburgh Alumni (James Tait Black Memorial Prize Short List)
27 May 2010	Institute of Chartered Accountants Scotland Reception
5 June 2010	King's Own Scottish Borderers Association Reception
9 June 2010	National Trust for Scotland Reception
10 June 2010	Poppyscotland Reception
12 June 2010	Trooping the Colour Reception[1]
25 June 2010	Armed Forces Day Reception[1]
29 June 2010	Budget Seminar[1]
30 June 2010	Energy Leaders Meeting[1]
5 July 2010	John Smith Memorial Event
6 July 2010	National Farmers Union Scotland (Round table meeting)[1]
26 July 2010	Seminar on the Implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Scottish Devolution[1]
31 August 2010	Edinburgh Festivals Reception[1]
7 October 2010	Rwanda International Development Reception[1]
18 October 2010	Scottish MPs and Peers Reception[1]
19 October 2010	Scottish Financial Services Reception
20 October 2010	Poppyscotland Reception
26 October 2010	CBI Scotland Reception
17 November 2010	Mercy Corps Reception
1 December 2010	Lunch for the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland[1]
15 December 2010	Scotch Whisky Reception
11 January 2011	Scotland Bill Team Reception[1]
19 January 2011	Scotland Food and Drink Reception[1]
2 February 2011	AG Drinks Reception[1]
14 February 2011	Consuls Lunch[1]
23 February 2011	Stakeholder Dinner[1]
2 March 2011	Stakeholder Breakfast[1]
22 March 2011	CBI Reception
30 March 2011	Edinburgh's Festivals Reception
17 May 2011	Institute of Chartered Accountants Reception
19 May 2011	University of Edinburgh
31 May 2011	Big Society Event Cumbernauld[1]
4 June 2011	King's Own Scottish Borderers Association Reception
9 June 2011	Poppyscotland Reception
11 June 2011	Trooping the Colour Reception[1]
14 June 2011	Scotch Whisky Reception in Brussels[1]
14 June 2011	MEPs Dinner in Brussels[1]
15 June 2011	SCDI Reception
23 June 2011	Veterans Reception[1]
28 July 2011	UNHCR Reception[1]
16 August 2011	Edinburgh Festival Reception[1]
1 September 2011	Youth Unemployment Seminar Hawick[1]
5 September 2011	Pre Lords Debate on Scotland Bill Reception[1]
13 September 2011	STV Reception
14 September 2011	VisitScotland Reception
18 October 2011	Scottish Financial Enterprise Reception
24 October 2011	Scottish Life Sciences Reception
25 October 2011	CBI Reception
31 October 2011	Institute of Chartered Accountants Reception
1 November 2011	Poppyscotland Reception (Launch of Poppy Appeal)
2 November 2011	Scottish Social Enterprise Coalition Reception
24 November 2011	Regional Youth Unemployment Seminar Falkirk[1]
30 November 2011	Lunch for the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland[1]

[1] Denotes events hosted by Scotland Office Ministers. All other events shown are events sponsored by third parties.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84225]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has not outsourced any services in the last five years.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84212]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not use postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail.

Summertime

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what budget his Department has allocated for the review of moving to central European time in the UK. [84957]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has not allocated any funding for the review. The Daylight Saving Bill has yet to complete parliamentary consideration. Should the Bill be enacted, we anticipate any costs largely falling in the next financial year. Details of how to allocate expenditure have yet to be considered.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Business

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to help small and medium-sized arts organisations increase their business and marketing skills. [84530]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England is running fundraising workshops to help medium-sized arts organisations make a step change in diversifying their income streams by increasing private giving. Business and marketing skills will be addressed at these events.

In addition this Department, in partnership with Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund, has announced details of the £100 million Catalyst scheme to boost private giving to culture. Catalyst Arts and Catalyst Heritage fundraising capacity building grants are open access grant schemes aimed at arts and heritage organisations with little or no fundraising experience. Grants of between £15,000 and £25,000 will be awarded to organisations for the purpose of building fundraising capacity and capability so that they can attract new donors, strengthen their financial resilience and enhance their artistic output or engagement with the public.

Arts: Finance

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Arts Council England on increasing the condition of funding for arts organisations that receive public funding. [84531]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England (ACE) informed this Department about the overall approach they would be taking in moving from their previous system of Regularly Funded Organisations to one of National Portfolio Organisations and in general terms how they planned to set this out in funding agreements. Conditions on individual funding agreements are a matter for ACE, not Government.

BBC: Sports

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what discussions he has had with the BBC Trust regarding the nomination process for Sports Personality of the Year; and if he will make a statement; [84958]

(2) what discussions he has had with the BBC Trust on the promotion of positive sporting role models in respect of *(a)* gender and *(b)* disability; and if he will make a statement; [84959]

(3) what discussions he has had with the BBC Trust on the range of sports to which the BBC gives airtime; and if he will make a statement. [84960]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has not had any discussions with the BBC Trust on these matters.

Capita

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each contract. [84831]

John Penrose: This Department has not awarded any contracts to Capita since May 2010.

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether any senior staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85082]

John Penrose: There are no senior civil servants in this Department or its Executive agency, the Royal Parks, who are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary. We do not collate this information for our non-departmental bodies. Accordingly I have asked each of their chief executives to write directly to the Member for Harrow West. Copies of the replies will be placed in both House Libraries.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84231]

John Penrose: The Department has outsourced the following services in the last five years:

	Service outsourced	*Company outsourced to:*
2007	The Department's managed IT service	Atos
2008	No services outsourced	n/a
2009	The Department's financial and accounting transactional service	Liberata
2010	The Department's Facilities Management (Carillion) and Mailroom Services (Ecovert)	Carillion and Ecovert
2011	No services outsourced	n/a

Departmental Responsibilities

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* museums and art galleries, *(b)* music teachers and schools, *(c)* ballet and dance schools, *(d)* theatres and concert halls, *(e)* drama schools and *(f)* libraries he expects to be operational in each of the English regions in each of the next four years. [84492]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has not made any estimate of future numbers of museums and art galleries; music teachers and schools; ballet and dance schools; theatre and concert halls; drama schools and libraries.

Information on the current provision of library services in each of the English regions is held in the House Libraries. We publish visits to all the sponsored museums and galleries:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/museums_and_galleries/3375.aspx

Arts Council England reports that currently there are 1,699 accredited museums in the UK:

http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/uploads/pdf/Statistical_Report_2011_11_04_Accreditation_Final.pdf

The Department will continue to monitor participation in all cultural activities through the Taking Part Survey.

Departmental Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85058]

John Penrose: The proportion of named day parliamentary questions which received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months is shown in the following table.

	Total number of named day questions	*Answered within five working days*		*Answered after five working days*
		Number	*Percentage*	
June	60	59	98	1
July	66	65	98	1
August	0	0	0	0
September	22	22	100	0
October	55	53	96	2
November	49	49	100	0

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Music: Curriculum

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education concerning the inclusion of music in the National Curriculum. [84635]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Minister for Culture, my hon. Friend the Member for Wantage (Mr Vaizey), and I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), on a range of issues including music education.

National Lottery: Grants

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of National Lottery grant applications in deprived areas. [84558]

John Penrose: The Lottery distributing bodies—rightly—make their funding decisions independently of Government. I understand they are working actively to encourage applications from deprived areas and 'cold spots' that have received little Lottery funding.

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with National Lottery grants distribution bodies about the process for grants awards after the London 2012 Olympics. [84559]

John Penrose: I have had no such discussion as the Lottery distributors make their funding decisions independently of Government, against their published criteria for particular programmes, and this process will not change after the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the ratio is of National Lottery funding given in grants in *(a)* Liverpool, Walton, *(b)* Sunderland Central and *(c)* Ashfield constituencies to how much is spent in those constituencies on National Lottery tickets. [84629]

John Penrose: The distribution of National Lottery grants is based on need for funds in each good cause and the impact that the funding could have in each case, rather than on the volume of ticket sales or on other criteria. I understand that Camelot does not collect data on National Lottery spend by constituency, but detail on Lottery grants awarded is available and is searchable at:

http://www.lottery.culture.gov.uk/

Olympic Games 2012: Mass Media

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that local media organisations have adequate access to cover the London 2012 Olympics. [84538]

Hugh Robertson: The British Olympic Association (BOA), as the National Olympic Committee for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is responsible for allocating accreditation for the Olympic games for media based in the United Kingdom. I am corresponding with Lord Moynihan, chairman of the BOA, to request if further accreditations can be made available. A copy of the most recent letter from Lord Moynihan to the Minister for Sport and the Olympics on this matter has been placed in the House Libraries.

Olympic Games 2012: Scotland

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of residents in Banff and Buchan reside within *(a)* 10 miles and *(b)* 20 miles of the route of the Olympic Flame. [83317]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is responsible for the Olympic torch relay route.

LOCOG did not devise the route by constituency, and as such, they have not measured the proportion of residents on a constituency basis.

The communities through which the torch will pass were published on 7 November 2011, bringing the Olympic flame to within 10 miles of 95% of the UK population. Further detail can be found at:

http://www.london2012.com/olympic-torch-relay

Over a period of 70 days it is not possible for the Olympic flame to visit every community. As you will see from the published route the torch does not pass through Banff and Buchan, but will go close by, on its journey between Inverness and Aberdeen, and residents are invited to celebrations along this route. The street-level route of the Olympic torch relay will be confirmed nearer to the time of the relay.

The locations directly on the route were selected after two years of extensive UK-wide consultation, including with the Scottish Government but also local authorities and representatives of the tourism, heritage, sustainability, culture, education and sport sectors. A Scotland Torch Advisory Group was set up to support the delivery of an operationally feasible route that visits as many people and communities as possible, without regard to political constituency boundaries.

Overseas Visitors

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of overseas visitors likely to visit the UK in each of the next 10 years. [84564]

John Penrose: An estimate of the contribution that overseas visitors will make to the UK economy by 2020 is included in a report which was undertaken by Deloitte last year. Their analysis (at chapter 6) can be found on VisitBritain's website by using the following link:

http://www.visitbritain.org/Images/Economic%20case%20for%20the%20Visitor%20Economy%20-%20Phase%202%20-%2026%20July%202010%20-%20FINAL_tcm29-14561.pdf

The Government are committed to ensuring that the UK tourism industry creates a sustainable legacy as a result of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Over the next four years, VisitBritain will invest around £127 million in a new international marketing programme which is expected to deliver 4.6 million extra visitors from overseas and £2.27 billion in extra visitor spend.

Public Libraries: Fees and Charges

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many county councils charge for the borrowing of audio books from libraries. [84869]

Mr Vaizey: The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 prevents libraries from charging for the loan of material in a form which is readable without the use of electronic apparatus. Library authorities can therefore lawfully charge to lend audio books and other audio-visual material (music, films etc.).

While information on the number of authorities that do so is not collected centrally, figures showing income derived from audio-visual lending are included in the annual statistical report on public library services produced by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and information is available at local authority level. Where no data are provided this may indicate that the authority does not generate income from audio-visual loans. CIPFA reports are available in the House Libraries.

Video Games: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Welsh Ministers on the implementation of the Next Gen report for the *(a)* video games and *(b)* visual effects industry in Wales. [84748]

Mr Vaizey: I have had no meetings with Welsh Ministers specifically on the Next Gen report. However, in producing the Government's response to Next Gen (published 28 November) my officials engaged with all Government Departments, and representatives of the devolved Administrations, in considering the implications of the recommendations across the UK.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to reinstate the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. [77187]

Richard Benyon: We have no plans to reinstate the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what subsidies have been identified as environmentally harmful under the *(a)* framework of the Nagoya summit on biodiversity, *(b)* G-20 Pittsburgh summit and *(c)* Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe of the European Commission; and what steps she is taking to phase out support for such subsidies. [77962]

Richard Benyon: The Nagoya meeting for the convention on biological diversity in October 2011 agreed a new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-20. Under this, target 3 requests that by 2020 at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions. DEFRA is currently examining the requirements under this commitment, along with the other commitments agreed at this meeting. However, we have not yet identified any subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity.

With reference to the G-20 Pittsburgh summit, we are still committed to the aim to:

"phase out and rationalize over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing targeted support for the poorest."

The Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe, published on 20 September 2011, proposes a new pathway to action on resource efficiency. It proposes addressing markets and prices, taxes and subsidies that do not reflect the real costs of resource use and which lock the economy into an unsustainable path. The Commission's vision is to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies by 2020, with due regard to the impact on people in need.

The Government are examining the Commission's Communication. We support the aim of addressing environmentally harmful subsidies and will work constructively with the Commission and other member states to reduce them significantly. However, we may wish to retain some flexibility, for example, to address issues such as fuel poverty.

Agriculture: Water Abstraction

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of national freshwater resource is extracted for use in agriculture. [84046]

Richard Benyon: Agriculture uses approximately 1% of abstracted water resources in England and Wales, although this masks significant seasonal and regional differences. In East Anglia, for example, agriculture uses 16% of abstracted water.

Biodiversity

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the condition of habitats in England. [84124]

Richard Benyon: In May 2012, we will publish the latest condition assessments available for priority habitats in England. This will update the previous 2007 assessment of progress on targets within the former England Biodiversity Strategy, and contribute to the suite of indicators for measuring progress with 'Biodiversity 2020: a strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services'. Natural England will pilot a new programme of habitat surveillance next year, which will lead to ongoing improvements in the quality of our information on the condition of habitats in England.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish the results of the review of the current set of biodiversity indicators. [84385]

Richard Benyon: The results of the review will be published with the new biodiversity indicator set in May 2012.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what new scientific evidence has emerged since the Bovine TB Eradication Group for England issued its report on Developing a Bovine TB Eradication Programme for England in October 2009. [70639]

Mr Paice: There is a large amount of ongoing research into the epidemiology of TB and the development and evaluation of potential methods of controlling the disease, both within DEFRA's research programme and through other funding sources (such as the research councils) and new evidence is constantly becoming available.

A significant source of new evidence on culling badgers comes from the ongoing monitoring of TB incidence in the areas of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial. Ongoing monitoring since the end of the RBCT shows that the positive effect of culling on herd breakdowns was maintained for at least 5.5 years after culling stopped and that the negative effect on confirmed herd breakdowns on surrounding land disappeared by 12-18 months after culling stopped. When cattle TB incidence figures from the period after culling are included, the benefits of proactive culling are greater than those observed during the trial itself.

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason farmers in England receive more compensation for non-pedigree cattle over 36 months old affected by bovine TB than for pedigree cattle. [76672]

Mr Paice: Compensation for most TB affected cattle is determined objectively through table valuations which are true average open market prices for same category animals. To support table valuations, sales data are collected from a large number and wide range of sources.

A higher compensation rate for non-pedigree cattle (in the same category) will be a reflection of the underlying sales data. Although unusual, we do see this occasionally in a small number of categories, including the one highlighted in the question.

Dangerous Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings she has had on dangerous dogs since May 2010; and what meetings she plans to have in the next three months. [80991]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman) and her ministerial team have held numerous meetings between June 2010 and September 2011 to discuss issues including dangerous dogs with various groups and organisations including: the Dogs Trust; The Dog Advisory Council; the Communication Workers Union; the RSPCA; Battersea Dogs and Cats Home; Blue Cross; and the Assistant Chief Constable of the North Wales Police Force.

A recent stakeholder meeting on irresponsible dog ownership was chaired by my noble Friend, Lord Taylor of Holbeach, on 15 November 2011.

Ministers will continue to meet with relevant stakeholders on this issue as part of our ongoing programme of engagement.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she last met individuals injured in dangerous dog attacks. [80994]

Mr Paice: There are no records of Ministers having met directly with individuals injured in dangerous dog attacks. However, meetings have been held, including recently, with representatives of organisations who represent victims of dog attacks, such as the Communication Workers' Union.

Advertising: Job Vacancies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on advertising job vacancies since May 2010. [75633]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has spent £4,173.93 on advertising job vacancies since May 2010.

Departmental Allowances

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much members of her departmental management board have claimed in expenses since May 2010. [74951]

Richard Benyon: Business costs for directors generals, the permanent secretary and non-executive directors of the departmental board in DEFRA are published and updated quarterly on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/who/management/

Details for quarters April to June 2011 and July to September 2011 will be published in due course.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has received representations concerning *(a)* the Big Society Bank, *(b)* the Work Programme and *(c)* volunteering since June 2011; and if she will make a statement. [75070]

Richard Benyon: Since June 2011, neither the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), nor I have received any representations on the Big Society Bank or the Work programme. One representation has been received with respect to volunteering—a letter from Tom Flood, chief executive of BTCV (formerly the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers), providing information about and requesting support for BTCV's Carbon Army Big Green Weekend.

Departmental Flags

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 207W, on departmental flags, whether her Department has flown the Union flag each day of the year at each official building for which her Department is responsible which has a flag pole since June 2010. [73692]

Richard Benyon: The Department adheres to the current published guidance issued by the Department for Culture Media and Sport for flying the Union flag in respect of those premises having a flag pole under departmental management control.

The current guidance is available to view at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/honours/7124.aspx

Freedom of Information

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 her Department has received in each month since May 2010; how many responses given in each such month disclosed *(a)* the full information requested, *(b)* part of the information requested, with some information withheld under exemptions in the Act and *(c)* none of the information requested; and in respect of how many requests received in each such month (i) (A) substantive and (B) holding responses were issued within 20 working days of the date of receipt, (ii) no substantive response was issued within 40 working days of the date of receipt and (iii) no substantive response has yet been issued. [78876]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is set out in the following table. Comprehensive statistics will be published by the Ministry of Justice for the third and fourth quarters of 2011 in due course.

	Fully disclosed	*Partial*	*No disclosure*	*20 days*	*Extension*	*No reply in 40*	*No reply yet*
May 2010	20	4	3	31	0	0	0
June 2010	14	4	5	27	4	2	0
July 2010	20	4	3	27	1	1	0
August 2010	27	2	1	41	3	1	0
September 2010	16	5	3	30	2	2	0
October 2010	20	5	2	29	1	4	0
November 2010	24	5	2	32	1	0	0
December 2010	19	5	3	26	2	1	0
January 2011	16	3	3	27	0	0	0
February 2011	31	2	4	41	1	1	0
March 2011	17	3	5	28	1	4	0
April 2011	11	2	3	23	1	1	0
May 2011	20	4	3	31	0	0	0
June 2011	27	5	5	34	7	2	0

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in respect of how many responses to requests for information received by her Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the reason of *(a)* commercially sensitive information, *(b)* information not held, *(c)* information too costly to provide and *(d)* vexatious or repeated requests has been given in response since January 2010. [78877]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is set out in the following table. Comprehensive statistics for the third and fourth quarters of 2011 will be published by the Ministry of Justice in due course.

	Commercially sensitive information	*Not held*	*Too costly*	*Vex/repeated*
2010				
May	0	4	3	0
June	2	3	1	0
July	0	4	3	0
August	0	5	0	0
September	1	6	1	0
October	1	6	2	0
November	0	2	2	0
December	0	2	1	0
2011				
January	0	7	1	0
February	1	3	1	0
March	1	4	2	0
April	0	5	2	0
May	0	6	3	0
June	1	4	1	0

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Minister in her Department is responsible for determining whether exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should apply to responses to requests for information under the Act; and which other Minister is responsible for making such determinations should the subject matter of the request fall within the ministerial responsibilities of the Minister with lead responsibility. [78878]

Richard Benyon: Responsibility for the decision rests with the business area which holds the information. No additional clearance will be required for the release of routine and non-sensitive information. However, releases of sensitive information, or cases where exemptions were considered, will always require sign-off at a responsible official level and from time to time, in cases involving policy development, at ministerial level.

For cases where the "reasonable opinion of a qualified person" is necessary, e.g. under section 36(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the qualified person is "any Minister of the Crown" (section 36(5)(a)), and the Minister with lead responsibility for that area would take the decision.

Departmental Responsibilities

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the lead Minister in her Department is for *(a)* infectious diseases: animal and plant, *(b)* flooding and *(c)* food and water workstream of the Capabilities Programme. [79505]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), leads overall on emergencies. I, as Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Natural Environment and Fisheries, am responsible for the flooding and water work streams of the Capabilities Programme. The Minister of State for Agriculture and Food, my right hon. Friend the Member for South East Cambridgeshire (Mr Paice), leads on food and animal disease. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Lord Taylor, has ministerial responsibility for plant diseases, however, this is not part of the Capabilities Programme.

Earth Summit 2012

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultation she plans to undertake on her policy for the Rio Earth Summit 2012. [84022]

Richard Benyon: Rio+20, the UN Conference on sustainable development in June 2012, is an opportunity to agree specific steps to help the global economy make the transition to greener growth. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), is leading the Government's preparations for Rio+20, and as part of this is engaged with partners across Government, business, civil society, in the EU, and with key international partners. We will shortly be responding to the Environmental Audit Committee's report on Rio+20.

Fisheries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the monetary value of fish caught by the 10 metre and under fleet was in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [84579]

Richard Benyon: The monetary value of fish caught by the UK 10 metre and under fleet in each of the last five years was as follows:

	Value (£ million)
2006	75.0
2007	87.1
2008	85.4
2009	76.9
2010	79.9

Source:
Marine Management Organisation 2011

Work is currently under way to reform the fisheries management arrangements in England, with the aim of securing a more profitable, sustainable and unified fishing industry in the long term. It specifically seeks to tackle some of the difficulties currently facing the English under-10 metre fleet.

We are aiming to set up some pilot groups next year, to trial alternative management approaches for the under-10 metre fleet. Part of this work will look at ways to improve the marketing of the catch to increase profitability of the fishermen involved. The pilots will contribute to decisions on the final reform package.

Fishing Catches

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the proposals in the 2012 draft common fisheries policy to ban discards of certain species which are believed to have a good chance of survival if discarded promptly. [83996]

Richard Benyon: The UK Government strongly support the European Commission's ambition in seeking to end the wasteful practice of discarding of dead and dying fish, which has rightly attracted so much public interest. Through a reformed common fisheries policy (CFP) we need a flexible regulatory framework that drives the necessary changes in fishing activity and behaviour to end these discards.

There are some species which have a good chance of surviving if discarded, and it is important that the provisions of the CFP reflect this.

Fuels: Waste

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much refuse derived fuel was exported in 2010. [84023]

Richard Benyon: In England and Wales, 13,247 tonnes of exported refuse derived fuel was received at recovery facilities between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2010. 98,500 tonnes of exported refuse derived fuel was shipped under notifications permits consented to between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2010.

Marine Conservation Zones

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what additional work her Department has commissioned to support the designation of marine conservation zones; and if she will publish the terms of reference of any such work. [84139]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is commissioning an in-depth review of evidence available for the recommended Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) to ensure that all the relevant evidence has been gathered and used appropriately.

Discussions are under way between DEFRA and delivery partners on the best approach to commissioning additional sea bed and habitat monitoring in English waters to ensure we make the best use of the additional funding to support marine conservation zone designation.

The terms of reference will be published on the DEFRA website in due course when they have been agreed.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what weighting she plans to give to *(a)* social, *(b)* economic and *(c)* environmental consequences when designating marine conservation zones. [84141]

Richard Benyon: The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 allows for social and economic factors to be taken into account when deciding where marine conservation zones (MCZs) should be located, and what associated management measures will be implemented to meet their conservation objectives. The Government are aiming to designate sites and identify possible management measures that will meet the site's conservation objectives while having the least social and economic impact, as the Government want to achieve the right combination of environmental care and sustainable economic development in their decisions to implement the Act.

The weight to be attached to socio-economic interests will depend on a number of factors and will need to be considered in the light of the particular circumstances that apply in each area. Where areas contain features which are rare, threatened or declining and come with limited options for their location, ecological considerations are likely to carry greater weight in considering the area's suitability for designation as an MCZ.

Natural Capital Committee

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how frequently she expects the Natural Capital Committee to report to Government; [84128]

(2) whether the Natural Capital Committee's advice to Government will be laid before Parliament; [84129]

(3) whether the Government plan to respond publicly to the advice they receive from the Natural Capital Committee. [84130]

Richard Benyon: The Natural Capital Committee will advise the Government on the state of English natural capital and it will be set up initially for the duration of this Parliament. The work of the committee will be available to Parliament and will be set out in a series of

reports. The Economic Affairs Committee will be the recipient of the reports and advice from the Natural Capital Committee, and it will consider how the Government might best respond. All the advice from the Natural Capital Committee to the Government will be made public.

Nature Conservation: British Overseas Territories

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to protect critically endangered species in British overseas territories. [84126]

Richard Benyon: The Government's Darwin Initiative provides strong support to conservation work in the UK overseas territories (UKOTs) and has a specific funding stream for the UKOTs. To date, the Darwin Initiative has committed over £3.8 million towards conservation projects in the UKOTs through 33 projects. The Darwin Challenge Fund ear-marked £1.5 million for the period 2009-12 to provide funding for scoping potential projects in the UKOTs.

We also provide funding for specific projects to support conservation in UKOTs. For example, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), announced a contribution of £200,000 at last year's Nagoya Biodiversity conference, towards rodent eradication on the world heritage site of Henderson Island in the Pitcairn group of islands, which hosts many endangered species of birds, including the Henderson petrel. In addition, I announced at the Overseas Territories Consultative Council, which took place on 24 November 2011, a commitment of just under £400,000 towards initiatives in the UKOTs, including a £250,000 contribution towards the RSPB's initiative to eradicate mice on Gough Island, which is a site of international significance for breeding seabirds. We are also currently funding three research projects on the control of non-native invasive species in UKOTs in the south Atlantic, at a cost of £223,000.

DEFRA supports a range of other initiatives benefiting biodiversity in the UKOTs, such as the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels co-ordinator post promoting implementation of the agreement in the UK south Atlantic territories.

Nature Conservation: Crime

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions have resulted from detection by the National Wildlife Crime Unit in each of the last four years. [84435]

Richard Benyon: The Ministry of Justice court proceedings database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought, but not all the circumstances of each case. It is not possible to identify the proceedings resulting from detection by a specific agency from the centrally held data.

Rural Areas: Broadband

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of the £20 million to be provided for the Rural Community Broadband Fund is being provided by *(a)* Broadband Delivery UK and *(b)* the Rural Development Programme for England. [84654]

Richard Benyon: The Rural Community Broadband Fund is made up of £10 million of European funding from the Rural Development Programme for England and £10 million of Exchequer funding from Broadband Delivery UK.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how often sites of special scientific interest are monitored that are considered as high risk. [84123]

Richard Benyon: The monitoring of sites of special scientific interest follows a risk based cycle, with a frequency of every four years for those identified as high risk.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has a target for the number of sites of special scientific interest that should be in favourable condition by the end of the Parliament. [84125]

Richard Benyon: The new England Biodiversity Strategy includes the outcome that by 2020, at least 50% of the area of England's sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) should be in favourable condition. There is no specific target for the number of SSSIs being in favourable condition by the end of this Parliament.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many sites of special scientific interest are considered to be at high risk. [84387]

Richard Benyon: As of 29 November 2011, Natural England assessed that 820 of England's 4,113 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are at risk of a decline in condition from either unfavourable recovering or favourable; this equates to 23% of the 1.04 million hectare area of SSSIs.

Natural England uses condition assessment and other site based work, to identify and record risks to site condition, facilitating follow up work with partners and land managers to address relevant issues.

Water

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to encourage improved water efficiency in *(a)* industrial processes and *(b)* commercial buildings. [84044]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA manages the 'Water Technology List', which specifies water efficient products and systems covering a range of industrial and commercial

applications. Businesses that purchase items on the list are eligible for an enhanced capital allowance of 100% in the first year of operation. In the food and drink sector, DEFRA's delivery body, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) works with the Food and Drink Federation, to deliver the Federation House Commitment, which helps companies reduce their water usage. WRAP continues to catalyse water savings through inter-business transfers of resources through the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme.

In respect of commercial buildings, WRAP has published model specifications that enable organisations to specify water efficiency outcomes when procuring new buildings, or facilities management services for existing buildings. Further work in this area will integrate water efficiency with a more comprehensive set of model specifications, resource management templates and tools.

Water Abstraction

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made an estimate of the likely available national annual water resource up to 2050. [84045]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency has recently been working to explore the future availability of water for abstraction in 2050 in England and Wales under a range of different scenarios of climate change, water demand and water flows required for the environment. This will be published in December, in parallel with the Water White Paper as part of the underpinning evidence base.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the likelihood of the annual level of water withdrawals exceeding 40 per cent. of the available national water resource in the future; and if she will make a statement. [84047]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency has done some recent work for DEFRA to explore future availability of water for abstraction in 2050 in England and Wales under a range of different scenarios of climate change, water demand and water flows required for the environment. This will be published in December, in parallel with the Water White Paper as part of the underpinning evidence base.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the annual water withdrawal as a proportion of available water resource nationally. [84048]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency's 2009 assessment found that for the majority of England, approximately 10% of available water resources are withdrawn for abstraction; for the South and East of England the proportion is just over 20%. Less than 5% of available water resources are withdrawn for abstraction in Wales.

Departmental Written Questions

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she intends to answer question 74208 tabled by the hon. Member for Dundee East on 10 October 2011. [83832]

Richard Benyon: I answered the hon. Member's question on 30 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 944W.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she intends to answer question 74898 tabled by the hon. Member for Angus on 12 October 2011 on London weighting and London living allowance. [83833]

Richard Benyon: I answered the hon. Member's question on 30 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 943W.

JUSTICE

Appeals

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 404W, on appeals, how many appeal cases were heard *(a)* with and *(b)* without legal representation in each category in 2010-11; and in what proportion of cases (i) with and (ii) without legal representation the original ruling was upheld. [84642]

Mr Djanogly: It has not been possible to collate the number of cases heard and the proportion of cases upheld within the time available. However, I will write to the hon. Member shortly and place a copy in the Library of the House.

Ashfield Prison: Reoffenders

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who participated in the project run by 2nd Chance at HM Prison Ashfield reoffended following release; what proportion of the total number of participants this represents; and what the average reoffending rate for people who have served a sentence at HM Prison Ashfield was in the latest period for which figures are available. [84749]

Mr Blunt: The reoffending data MOJ produces do not identify offenders who participated in a project run by 2nd Chance. Therefore reoffending rates cannot be calculated for these offenders.

The following table shows the proven reoffending rates for adults (aged 18 or over) and juveniles (aged 10 to 17) who reoffended within one year of being released from HM prison Ashfield between January and December 2009.

		Number of offenders	*Reoffending rate (percentage)*
Adults	Sentence less than 12 months	40	65.0
	Sentence of 12 months or more juveniles	53	54.7
Juveniles		334	72.5

Proven reoffending is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period and receiving a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow up. Following this one year period, a further six months is allowed for cases to progress through the courts.

Birmingham Prison

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure has been incurred by his Department on new locks at HM Prison Birmingham since G4S took over the running of that prison. [84328]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has not incurred expenditure on new locks at HM Birmingham since G4S took over the running of that prison.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Offender Management Service of preparing for HM Prison Birmingham to be operated by G4S. [84332]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not hold the requested information for the individual competitions for the five establishments (HMP Birmingham, HMP Buckley Hall, HMP Doncaster, HMP Featherstone 2, and HMP Wellingborough), as these competitions were managed as one programme to ensure the most efficient use of resources. I am able to provide actual and estimated aggregated costs for these five prisons as follows.

The costs supplied as follows are the most accurate that we can provide. Staff costs are based upon the person-hours that have been charged to the project for budget purposes. Generally, neither the Ministry of Justice nor NOMS implement time sheets. Therefore, it is not possible to attribute costs to the project for the actual hours worked, as this information is not known.

The costs of all contracts included in the 'other costs' category are actual costs.

All costs are given to two significant figures.

(A) For their contribution to the work on the competitions for the five prisons listed above, we estimate the combined spending of Ministry of Justice Procurement and Ministry of Justice ICT to be:

(i) £750,000 on staff;

(ii) £0 on travel and subsistence; and

(iii) £1,600,000 on other costs

(B) The overall agreed value of the Public Sector Bids Unit/Business Development Unit for prison competitions was £1,100,000. It is not possible to provide details of actual spending for the reasons described in my earlier response of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 669W.

(C) For their contribution to the work on the competitions for the five prisons, we estimate that the combined spending of NOMS Business and Service Development Group, NOMS ICT and Estates is:

(i) £830,000 on staff;

(ii) £86,000 on travel and subsistence; and

(iii) £800,000 on other costs.

Operational input to supplier dialogue and evaluation phase have been excluded from these costs for Estates.

Chelmsford Prison: Foreign Nationals

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals remained at Chelmsford Prison after completing their prison sentences in each of the last five years; for what length of time; at what cost to the public purse in each year; and if he will make a statement. [83270]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

Establishing how many foreign national offenders in the last five years remained at HMP Chelmsford under immigration detention beyond the end of their custodial sentence and the length of time they were detained would require cross referencing a large volume of electronic records and this would incur a disproportionate cost.

It costs the UK Border Agency £102 per night to keep an individual in immigration detention.

Courts: Security

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints HM Courts and Tribunals Service have received on the conduct of security staff contracted from MITIE in the last 12 months. [82953]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) records all complaints and is able to identify which of these complaints relate to staff conduct. However, it is not possible to identify how many of these complaints are about MITIE security staff within the cost threshold. HMCTS uses MITIE security staff at approximately 500 venues and would have to examine the complaints for each of these venues to establish how many were about security staff.

HMCTS investigates all complaints made about the conduct of staff. Our contracts with MITIE specify the requirements for security staff employed on the contract, and HMCTS refers all complaints against MITIE contracted staff to MITIE for joint investigation at the location in which the incident took place. However, there is no operational requirement for MITIE to record the number of complaints made against them either regionally or centrally, so it is not possible to identify how many complaints have been reported at each individual court and hearing centre within the cost threshold.

Crown Lands and Estates: Cornwall

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice from which category of Crown land fee simple owners in Cornwall hold title to their properties. [85021]

Mr Djanogly: The Crown is the ultimate owner of all land in England and Wales, including Cornwall. The owner of a fee simple holds the land of his or her feudal lord by the tenure of free and common socage for an estate in fee simple. For most purposes the identity of the relevant lord is immaterial as directly or indirectly the land will be held of the Crown. If a freehold estate in land determines, so that the land escheats, it will pass, depending on its location, to the Crown, the Duchy of Lancaster or the Duchy of Cornwall. The possessions of the Duchy of Cornwall and the Duchy of Lancaster are considered to be held of the Crown even when the Duchy is vested in the Crown.

Cybercrime: Sentencing

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to extend the imprisonment term for people found guilty of breaching section 127(3) of the Communications Act 2003. [82032]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) have no plans to extend the imprisonment term for people found guilty of breaching section 127(3) of the Communications Act 2003.

Departmental Internet

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total cost to the public purse was of developing the You be the Judge interactive facility on his Department's website. [84410]

Mr Blunt: The total cost of developing You be the Judge was £56,403.60 (excl. VAT) which was incurred for script-writing and production of the videos. Web design and coding were undertaken in-house by MOJ staff at no extra cost.

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on *(a)* the recovery of legal costs from failed applicants for judicial review and *(b)* enforcement of any such recovery; and whether any exceptions apply. [83915]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not have a set policy on the recovery of legal costs from failed applicants for judicial review but will normally seek an order for costs where successful on the claim. The majority of litigants are legally aided and in relation to them an order is not enforced unless there is a change in financial circumstances. Even where funds are potentially available, Departments make an assessment on a case by case basis as to whether securing payment will be cost-effective when the costs of enforcement are taken into account.

Magistrates Courts: Wales

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates' courts premises in Wales he expects to make available for *(a)* sale, *(b)* rent and *(c)* uses other than as court houses. [84717]

Mr Djanogly: 11 magistrates courts premises in Wales have been identified as being surplus. All will be sold for alternative usage.

Malicious Communications Act 1988

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions for offences under the Malicious Communications Act 1988 there have been; and what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of such prosecutions and convictions which relate to messages sent via the internet. [84751]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Malicious Communications Act 1988 in England and Wales, from 2006-10 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Information held on the Ministry of Justice court proceedings database does not identify those proceedings under the Malicious Communications Act 1988 which specifically relate to messages sent via the internet.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in spring 2012.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under the Malicious Communications Act 1988, England and Wales, 2006-10[1, 2, 3]

	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
Statute	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Malicious Communications Act 1988	182	121	251	166	329	245	507	396	694	498

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Offenders: Community Care

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* violent criminals, *(b)* sex offenders and *(c)* sex offenders with convictions relating to paedophilia have been released into the community from mental health facilities in each of the last five years; and what proportion have subsequently reoffended in each such year. [84416]

Mr Blunt: The Mental Health Act 1983 makes provision for mentally disordered offenders convicted of any imprisonable offence except murder to be sent to hospital for treatment for their mental disorder as an alternative to custody. The higher courts may also impose a restriction order, if this is necessary for the protection of the public from serious harm.

All offenders sentenced to a hospital order have the right to have their detention reviewed by an independent tribunal. In addition, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), may discharge "restricted patients", while "unrestricted patients" may

be discharged, if their responsible clinician considers that they no longer require treatment in hospital.

Figures on the number of unrestricted patients discharged from hospital are not collated centrally. The following table sets out the number of all restricted patients discharged from hospital in each of the past five years:

Discharges from hospital

	Number
2006	375
2007	381
2008	416
2009	413
2010	509

Systems do not enable these figures to be broken down into the categories requested.

Among all restricted patients who were discharged from hospital for the first time between 1999 and 2007, 5.8% were reconvicted within two years of their discharge.

Figures on reconviction rates for unrestricted patients are not collated centrally.

Prior to discharge from hospital, patients will have increasing access to the community by means of community leave. This is an important part of rehabilitation. No restricted patient may access the community without the permission of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will grant permission only after a thorough risk assessment based on the clinical evidence available in each case.

Perjury: International Co-operation

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the requirements of Chapter 2 Article 5 Section 3 of the United Nations Convention in respect of measures to prevent perjury by experts in secret court hearings. [82040]

Mr Djanogly: Article 5(3) of the United Nations convention against corruption requires state parties to:

"endeavour to periodically evaluate relevant legal instruments and administrative measures with a view to determining their adequacy to prevent and fight corruption."

The offences in the Bribery Act 2010, which came into force on 1 July 2011, are capable of applying to conduct in connection with court proceedings which amounts to bribery. There are, in addition, a number of offences which deal specifically with perjury, set out, for example, in the Perjury Act 1911. Together with judicial oversight and the appeals process the Government consider these measures are adequate to deal with both perjury and bribery which arise in court proceedings.

Prison Accommodation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 578W, on prison accommodation (1) if he will provide a breakdown on the new prisons accommodation which became available between 29 July and 18 November 2011; [84560]

(2) what proportion of the increase in multiple occupancy of prison cells between 29 July and 18 November 2011 was in *(a)* privately and *(b)* publicly run prisons. [84561]

Mr Blunt: The answer that I provided the right hon. Member on 24 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 578W, identified that between Friday 29 July and Friday 18 November 2011 338 places were delivered as a result of new prison accommodation becoming available and 630 places were delivered as a result of an increase in multiple occupancy of prison cells.

The 338 new places were delivered at HMP Erlestoke (124 places) and HMP Stocken (214 places).

Of the 630 places delivered as a result of an increase in multiple occupancy of prison cells, 117 places were delivered in privately run prisons, with the remaining 513 places delivered in publicly run prisons. These constituted contingency accommodation in response to population pressure following widespread public disorder in August, the majority of which have since been de-activated.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much increased operational capacity in each prison in England and Wales was due to *(a)* new prison accommodation becoming available, *(b)* existing accommodation being returned to use, *(c)* an increase in multiple occupancy of prison cells and *(d)* other measures between 1 May 2010 and 31 July 2011. [84640]

Mr Blunt: Between 30 April 2010 and 29 July 2011 the operational capacity of the total prison estate increased by a net 766 places, comprising 4,572 increases and 3,806 decreases. The following table breaks down the increases in accommodation by *(a)* new prison accommodation becoming available, *(b)* existing accommodation being returned to use, *(c)* an increase in multiple occupancy of prison cells and *(d)* other measures

	Number
(a) new prison accommodation becoming available	2,329
(b) existing accommodation being returned to use	1,044
(c) an increase in multiple occupancy of prison cells	203
(d) other measures (these are places returning to use following change of function and those places reclaimed for use as prisoner accommodation)	996
Total	4,572

The table does not reflect those places that have been taken out of use during this period. Places can be taken out of use for a number of reasons. These include the operational closures of HMPs Ashwell, Lancaster Castle and Morton Hall (which later returned to use as an immigration removal centre). Other decreases are the result of accommodation being taken out of use for essential maintenance or refurbishment, these include places taken out of use following prisoner damage.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what existing unused prison accommodation was brought back into use in each prison in each month from 1 May 2010 to 1 November 2011. [84641]

Mr Blunt: The following table identifies that between Friday 30 April 2010 and Friday 28 October 2011 1,828 places were delivered as a result of existing accommodation returning to use.

The places identified in the table include places returning to use following maintenance or refurbishment and places returning to use following prisoner damage.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Existing accommodation being returned to use between Friday 30 April 2010 and Friday 28 October 2011

	2010								2011	
Prison	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*
Bedford	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belmarsh	—	—	—	—	31	—	—	—	—	—
Birmingham	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bristol	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bullingdon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chelmsford	—	—	—	—	55	—	—	—	—	—
Dartmoor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Elmley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Featherstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
Guys Marsh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haslar	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	26
Hindley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holloway	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Holme House	—	—	—	—	—	—	112	—	—	—
Leeds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lewes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leyhill	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Lindholme	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lindholme (IRC)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Littlehey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Liverpool	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Long Lartin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
Low Newton	—	8	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moorland	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—
New Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Northallerton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Parkhurst	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pentonville	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rochester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Send	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spring Hill	—	—	—	—	—		—	4		—
Stoke Heath	—	—	—	—	40	18	—	—	—	—
Swaleside	114	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swansea	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The Verne	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wellingborough	—	—	—	—	32	—	—	—	—	—
Wetherby	—	—	—	—	—	12	20	—	—	—
Whaton	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—
Whatton	—	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitemoor	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Winchester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	134	8	15	37	171	30	171	10	12	78

	2011								
Prison	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Total*
Bedford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Belmarsh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31
Birmingham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Bristol	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Bullingdon	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Chelmsford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55
Dartmoor	—	—	—	—	4	—	4	90	98
Elmley	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18

Prison	2011 Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Featherstone	—	—	—	—	32	—	—	—	32
Ford	52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	76
Guys Marsh	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Haslar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37
Hindley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	66	66
Holloway	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
Holme House	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	112
Leeds	—	—	—	—	—	40	—	—	40
Lewes	—	—	—	—	—	100	107	7	214
Leyhill	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	34
Lindholme	16	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	17
Lindholme (IRC)	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	6
Littlehey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	60
Liverpool	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	25
Long Lartin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Low Newton	—	—	30	24	—	—	—	—	74
Moorland	—	—	—	—	25	75	70	100	283
New Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Northallerton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Parkhurst	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	12
Pentonville	—	—	38	—	—	—	—	—	38
Rochester	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Send	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Spring Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Stoke Heath	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58
Swaleside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	114
Swansea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
The Verne	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wellingborough	36	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	98
Wetherby	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	59
Whaton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Whatton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Whitemoor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Winchester	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Total	154	50	75	36	63	219	215	350	1,828

Prison Service: Convictions

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees of HM Prison Service have criminal convictions. [83873]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not hold a central record of employees of HM Prison Service that have received criminal convictions.

If serving members of staff receive a criminal conviction, they will be subject to potential disciplinary action. Depending on the nature of the conviction, this could lead to dismissal, including summary dismissal. This would be in addition to any criminal sanctions imposed by the courts.

Prior to beginning employment with NOMS, applicants must declare criminal convictions and consent to additional background checks where appropriate. Previous criminal convictions are not an automatic disbar to employment with NOMS. Each case is considered on its merits.

Prison Service: Wales

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people the Prison Service employed in Wales in each of the last five years; [84718]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people expected to be employed by the Prison Service in Wales in each of the next five years. [84719]

Mr Blunt: Information on the full-time equivalent number of staff employed within Welsh Prison Service establishments and the National Offender Management Service Headquarters (NOMS HQ) based in Wales between 2007 and 2011 is contained in the following table. The figures include staff employed by the contractor that manages HMP Parc.

HM Prison Service and NOMS HQ staff in Wales—31 March 2007 to 2011

As at 31 March each year	Full-time equivalent staff in post
2007	1,779
2008	2,024
2009	2,198
2010	2,150
2011	1,621

Note:
In June 2010 approximately 640 staff at the NOMS National Shared Service Centre transferred to the central Ministry of Justice.

Detailed plans of staffing within Wales over the next five years are not available. The three public sector prisons in Wales have submitted staffing plans that indicate a reduction in funded posts compared to April

2011 of 19 by April 2012, 30 by April 2013 and 29 by April 2014. These plans are subject to adjustment in line with budgetary constraints. Information on the projected fall in staff within NOMS HQ in Wales is not available but will contribute to the need to reduce costs across NOMS HQ. No staffing projections have been provided by the contractor for HMP Parc.

Prisoners: Compensation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much compensation was paid to prisoners in each of the last five years in each claim category; and to how many cases such claims related in each such year. [84419]

Mr Blunt: Prisoners may seek compensation through internal complaints procedures, correspondence, civil litigation and through the parliamentary and prison and probation ombudsman. To provide the information requested would require a trawl through thousands of individual complaint/letters received at each prison site and in MOJ headquarters. This could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Employment

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners at HM Prison *(a)* Preston and *(b)* Kirkham were receiving paid employment of more than (i) £10, (ii) £25 and (iii) £50 per week in the latest period for which figures are available. [83872]

Mr Blunt: As of 28 November 2011, 158 prisoners at Preston were earning £10 or more per week. No prisoners at Preston were earning more than £25 per week. 527 prisoners at Kirkham were earning £10 or more but less than £25, 64 were earning £25 or more but less than £50, and 39 were earning £50 or more. All of those prisoners earning over £25 per week are either employed in private industry within the prison or in full-time employment in the community.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to Prison Service Instruction 48/2011, (1) how much revenue has been raised in respect of the levy charges on prisoner earnings under remittance notices labelled Transfer of Prisoner Earnings Receipts to Victims and Witnesses Unit—Business Entity Code RB311; and how many prisoners are subject to the levy; [84406]

(2) how many employers have made payments into the GBS Re NOMS Agency account; which prisons such payments relate to; and how much was raised. [84407]

Mr Blunt: These figures are due to be published for the first time in April 2012. They are currently in preparation and have not yet been through the relevant production and quality assurance processes required prior to public release. I will write to my hon. Friend with the figures when they are published.

Prisons: Repairs and Maintenance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what renovation, refurbishment and redecoration works in prisons have been cancelled or postponed since July 2011; and what the reason was in each case. [84639]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not hold a central record of all renovation, refurbishment and redecoration works undertaken across the prison estate. There may be a wide range of projects which are dealt with at a local level and the information requested can be collected only at a disproportionate cost.

Probation Service: Wales

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people the probation service employed in Wales in each of the last five years; [84720]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people expected to be employed by the probation service in Wales in each of the next five years. [84721]

Mr Blunt: A snapshot of permanent probation service staff employed in Wales on 31 December in each of the last five years (2006-10) is provided in the following table. The latest published figures for 2011 have also been provided.

	Full-time equivalent
2006	1,350.97
2007	1,318.60
2008	1,332.67
2009	1,201.87
2010	1,095.43
2011 (at 30 September)	1,042.72

It is not possible to forecast staffing levels over the next five years, as the responsibility for resourcing levels lies with the individual probation trust. It is for them to take the necessary action at a local level to ensure they can deliver the required service within available resources.

Smoking: Motor Vehicles

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions for smoking in vehicles used for work have resulted in a conviction in each year since 2007. [84759]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice court proceedings database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought but not all the circumstances of each case. It is not possible to identify from offences under the Health Act 2006, "smoking in a smoke-free place", those instances where the offence was committed in a vehicle used for work.

Trials: Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions defendants have been found not guilty by a jury due to mental impairment attributable to post-traumatic stress disorder in the last five years. [84733]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought but not all the circumstances of each case. It is therefore not possible to identify from these centrally held data whether the defendant has been found not guilty by a jury due to mental impairment attributable to post traumatic stress disorder.

The law provides for persons who are not responsible for their acts due to a 'disease of the mind' to be found not guilty by reason of insanity.

The number of defendants found not guilty by reason of insanity at the crown Court in England and Wales, from 2006 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Defendants found not guilty by reason of insanity at the crown Court, England and Wales, 2006-10[1,2]

	Not guilty by reason of insanity
2006	16
2007	10
2008	22
2009	22
2010	14

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Witnesses: Intimidation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of cases where a witness has been intimidated by prisoners on remand in each of the last five years. [84421]

Mr Blunt: This information is not collected centrally but it is clear that where intimidation occurs the impact can be serious. For that reason arrangements were put in place in September which enable the police, CPS, courts and prisons to work together to protect victims and witnesses from unwelcome contact where such a risk is identified.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 35W, on biofuels, whether his definition of stemwood corresponds to that used by the European Commission. [84147]

Gregory Barker: We are not aware of any officially-recognised definition of stemwood. For the purpose of my answer of 21 November, stemwood is considered as referring to the wood from the main stem of a tree; so excludes branches, leaves, stump and root but includes residues such as sawdust and offcuts from sawmill processing of stemwood.

Boilers: Government Assistance

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in St Helens South and Whiston constituency have replaced a boiler under the boiler scrappage scheme. [84661]

Gregory Barker: The boiler scrappage scheme's evaluation data were broken down into nine major demographical regions, not local constituencies. For the North West region 17,897 vouchers were issued, the second largest total for any region. This is 15.2% of the total number of installations, which was 118,108.

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had any recent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the future of the boiler scrappage scheme. [84662]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers and officials meet regularly with their counterparts in HM Treasury and other Departments to discuss a range of issues. As has been the case with successive administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Carbon Emissions

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the revenue that will be generated from the first sale of emission allowances to Carbon Reduction Commitment participants in spring 2012. [84399]

Gregory Barker: The Government's decision to remove revenue recycling from the CRC Energy Efficiency scheme was taken in order to clarify the price signal to participants and to support the public finances. The spending review 2010 policy costings document sets out the impact of the CRC Scheme on Government expenditure, which can be viewed at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spend_sr2010_policycostings.htm

The allowance price has been set at £12/tCO_2 for the first year, and future years' prices will be published as part of the Budget process.

Annually managed expenditure (AME)

	£ million
2011-12	+716
2012-13	+731
2013-14	+995
2014-15	+1,020

The Department has not revised this estimate.

Civil Nuclear Constabulary: Arrests

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many arrests the Civil Nuclear Constabulary has made since May 2010; and how many of those arrests resulted in prosecutions. [84001]

Charles Hendry: The Civil Nuclear Constabulary has made 16 arrests since May 2010. All arrests were handed over to the relevant Home Office or Scottish police force for investigation and potential prosecution. After initial arrest, CNC involvement was limited to providing witness statements and the CNC does not keep records of the number of cases proceeding to prosecution.

Climate Change: Developing Countries

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the long-term finance from the Government's International Climate Fund for developing countries is projected to be delivered through *(a)* his Department, *(b)* non-governmental organisations and *(c)* multilateral agencies. [85152]

Gregory Barker: £1 billion of the £2.9 billion International Climate Fund will come from the Department of Energy and Climate Change's budget. This funding will be delivered through others.

The International Climate Fund started in April 2011. Given we are only eight months through a four-year fund, we are still deciding on potential delivery partners. The choice of delivery partner will be based on maximising impact and ensuring value for money.

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84193]

Gregory Barker: As at 1 December 2011, DECC had 20 professional communicators, working across a range of disciplines.

As of the same date, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority had 17 professional communicators; the Civil Nuclear Police Authority had two part-time professional communicators; the Coal Authority had one professional communicator; and the Committee on Climate Change had two professional communicators.

The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management, the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group and the Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance Board did not have any professional communicators.

DECC has no executive agencies.

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether any senior staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85080]

Gregory Barker: The Department's policy is that staff salaries are paid into their bank accounts.

An investigation as to whether each bank account relates to an individual or limited company would be at disproportionate cost. Without such an in depth investigation there is no evidence that any senior civil servants in the Department of Energy and Climate Change and its non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary.

Departmental Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85049]

Gregory Barker: During the period 1 June 2011 to 30 November 2011 the Department received 227 named day questions. Of these 192 (83%) were answered on the day; the remaining 37 questions were all answered within five working days.

Dounreay

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the total capital cost was of the three reactors built at Dounreay; what the total output of electricity was over their lifespan; and what the average cost was per MWh. [84425]

Charles Hendry: The total capital cost of the three reactors at Dounreay, including ancillary plant, was in excess of £55 million; based on figures published in the 1960s. One of the reactors was a materials test reactor and generated no power during its operating life. The remaining two reactors generated a total of 9,835 GWh of electricity. The average cost per MWh could be calculated only at a disproportionate cost.

Electricity Generation

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of reverting to a pool system of electricity supply. [82304]

Charles Hendry: The UK operated under a pool system prior to privatisation, thereafter we moved to a system of bilateral contracting (NETA), in common with most other European counties. A reversion to a pool system would be costly, disruptive and would take years to implement. As an illustration, estimated costs of the transition from the pool to NETA are in the region of £700 million.

Electricity: Prices

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average costs were per MWh of electricity generated from *(a)* coal, *(b)* gas and *(c)* nuclear in (i) 1981, (ii) 1990, (iii) 2000 and (iv) 2010 at current prices. [84423]

Gregory Barker: In recent years DECC has carried out analysis on generation costs to inform policy decisions. The following table shows estimates of the levelised cost of electricity generation from coal, gas and nuclear that have been published by HMG since 2006. These have been converted into 2011 prices using HMT deflators.

Table 1: Levelised costs of electricity generations, £/MWh, 2011 prices

Source	Gas plant—CCGT	Coal plant—ASC with FGD	£/MWh Nuclear—PWR
Energy Review (2006)[1]	40	32	43
Mott MacDonald (2010)[2]	84	108	103
PB (2011)[3]	79	98	76

[1] Energy Review (2006):
http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file32014.pdf
[2] Based on projects starting in 2009. Report available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/statistics/projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf
[3] Based on projects starting in 2009. Report available at:
http://www.decc.gov.uk/publications/basket.aspx?filetype=4&filepath=11%2fabout-us%2feconomics-social-research%2f2127-electricity-generation-cost-model-2011.pdf&minwidth=true#basket

Please note that these costs from different sources are not directly comparable as assumptions behind the reference plant and operating environment have changed over time. For example the base case estimate in the 2006 Energy Review shown here does not include a carbon price, while the cost of carbon is included in more recent estimates by Mott MacDonald (2010) and PB (2011).

While DECC does not have generation cost estimates for UK plant prior to 2006 and we are unaware of any running series of UK levelised costs data, there are other sources of data. For example, the IEA/OECD produced levelised cost estimates for coal and nuclear plants commissioning in 1995. These are shown in the following table (converted in 2011 prices). Please note that these estimates are not directly comparable to the DECC published estimates in Table 1 as they are based on different reference technologies.

Table 2: IEA/OECD levelised costs of electricity generation commissioning in 1995, £/MWh, 2011 prices

	Coal	£/MWh Nuclear
UK	84	71

Source:
'Projected Costs of Generating Electricity: From Power Stations for Commissioning in the Period 1995-2000' (OECD).

Energy Performance Certificates

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of properties that *(a)* meet the grade C energy performance certificate standard and *(b)* will meet the grade C energy performance certificate standard in each year from 2012 to 2015. [84095]

Gregory Barker: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) estimates, based on a sample survey of 16,150 dwellings, indicate that 3,095,000 dwellings have an EPC rating of C or above[1].

Our analysis suggests that the uptake of Green Deal plans could lead to an average of 60,000 dwellings in bands D-G being brought up to an EPC rating of C or above each year between 2013 and 2022.

[1] *Source:*
English Housing Survey 2009.

Energy Supply

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made a recent assessment of the energy security and national resilience implications of the current level of diversity of ownership within the UK's *(a)* nuclear power and *(b)* renewable energy industries; and if he will make a statement. [83548]

Charles Hendry: Our energy policy is to ensure diverse and competitive electricity and gas markets. In July, we published the White Paper on electricity market reform which will deliver secure, affordable electricity from a diverse mix of sources, including renewables, new nuclear, and fossil fuels—including carbon capture and storage.

The current nuclear fleet is owned by EDF Nuclear Generation (formerly British Energy) and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). Our policy to facilitate investment in new nuclear has led to three consortia (EDF, Horizon and Nugen) to come forward with plans to build new nuclear power in the UK to date. Renewables assets to generate electricity and heat can come forward at a variety of scales from the household level upwards and are owned by a wide variety of individuals and companies.

This level of different ownership adds to security of supply and national resilience, and Government welcome further investment from these and other players to meet the needs of a secure and affordable low carbon economy.

Energy: Conservation

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will issue guidance to town and parish councils on how they may assist in delivering *(a)* measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, *(b)* greater energy efficiency and *(c)* local green energy projects. [83559]

Gregory Barker: I have asked the Committee on Climate Change to provide a report by the end of April 2012, to include a menu of options from which all local authorities can consider the actions they may take to reduce carbon emissions in their areas.

Government will complement this, working with local authorities to develop 'how to' guidance, bringing together knowledge, experience, and advice aimed at supporting all local authorities to achieve the objectives for cutting carbon emissions.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans his Department has to work with all those organisations that did not take early action under the Carbon Reduction Commitment to ensure that they adopt energy efficiency measures in future years of the scheme. [84397]

Gregory Barker: The Department welcomes the fact that so many companies and public sector organisations have taken clear action on energy management prior to the start of the CRC which was shown in the recently published performance league table.

The CRC combines financial, behavioural and reputational elements which will drive organisations to adopt energy efficiency measures in future years of the scheme. In addition, my Department is supporting the uptake of energy efficiency and low carbon measures through programmes such as the Renewable Heat Incentive and will provide further financial support through the Green Deal.

Energy: Meters

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure small and medium-sized business can participate in delivering the smart metering roll-out programme. [83864]

Charles Hendry: The smart metering roll-out is expected to generate new business and employment opportunities both throughout the supply chain for the manufacture of the meters and for their installation and maintenance. There will be further potential generated by the provision of the communications technology which will underpin the operation of the meters.

Energy: Taxation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent assessment is of the likelihood of his Department meeting its timetable for implementation of new energy company obligations in October 2012. [84922]

Gregory Barker: We remain on track for the legal framework and supporting guidance for the new energy company obligation to be in place by October 2012.

Fuel Poverty

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households that have been lifted out of fuel poverty as a direct result of the *(a)* Community Energy Savings Programme, *(b)* Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and *(c)* Warm Front scheme. [84134]

Gregory Barker: Estimates of the number of households removed from fuel poverty as a result of the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP), Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT), CERT extension and Warm Front scheme were published in the following relevant impact assessments and reports:

CESP:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/consultations/cesp/1_20090710121840_e_@@_cespia.pdf

Warm Front:

http://www.ialibrary.bis.gov.uk/uploaded/1442-ia-warm-front-eligibility100311.pdf

CERT:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/about-us/Science/3149-estimating-effect-cert.pdf

CERT Extension:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/doc/uk_-_energy_efficiency_action_plan.pdf

CESP was estimated to remove around 20,000 households from fuel poverty by the end of the programme and beyond; Warm Front was estimated to remove around 50,000 households from fuel poverty from April 2011 to March 2013 and beyond; CERT was estimated to sustainably remove around 163,000 households from fuel poverty from 2008 to 2011; and under the CERT extension to the end of 2012 around 185,000 households were estimated to receive measures to provide a long-term solution to fuel poverty.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households that will be lifted out of fuel poverty as a direct result of the Green Deal by 1 January 2016; and whether he has set a target in respect of the effects on fuel poverty of the Green Deal. [84135]

Gregory Barker: The consultation stage impact assessment for the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation contains an estimate and discussion of the policy's fuel poverty impacts, which can be viewed at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/green-deal/3603-green-deal-eco-ia.pdf.

It is estimated that, by the end of 2022, 350,000 to 550,000 households will have been removed from fuel poverty as a result of the whole Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation package, compared to how many could have been in fuel poverty in the absence of the policy. No separate estimate has been made for the proportion attributable only to the Green Deal finance mechanism.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households that will be lifted out of fuel poverty as a direct result of the affordable warmth element of the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) by 1 January 2016; and whether he has set a target in respect of the effects on fuel poverty of the ECO. [84136]

Gregory Barker: The consultation stage impact assessment for the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation contains an estimate and discussion of the policy's fuel poverty impacts, which can be viewed at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/green-deal/3603-green-deal-eco-ia.pdf

It is estimated that, by the end of 2022, 350,000 to 550,000 households will have been removed from fuel poverty as a result of the whole Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation package, compared to how many could have been in fuel poverty in the absence of the policy. No separate estimate has been made for the Affordable Warmth component of the package.

Fuel Poverty: North-east England

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of people in fuel poverty in *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* Middlesbrough borough, *(c)* Redcar and Cleveland borough, *(d)* Teesside and *(e)* the north-east in the last year for which figures are available. [81984]

Gregory Barker: Fuel poverty is measured at a household level. The most recent sub-regional data available are for 2009. The number of fuel poor households in each region in 2009 is shown in the following table:

	Number
(a) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency	9,000
(b) Middlesbrough local authority	14,200
(c) Redcar and Cleveland local authority	14,800
(e) The north-east	272,000

There is no published level of fuel poverty for Teesside. However, the combined number of fuel poor households in the local authorities of Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton on Tees (which approximately equate to the Teesside area) in 2009 was around 45,400.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: International Co-operation

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether, in the absence of a successor to the Kyoto protocol, the Government are prepared to agree new emissions reductions targets that come into force before 2020. [85188]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to pushing for the EU to adopt a 30% emissions reduction target by 2020 on 1990 levels. Ongoing discussions in Durban on the Kyoto Protocol will not change this commitment.

Nationally, the Climate Change Act 2008 introduced a system of carbon budgets which provide legally binding limits on the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that may be produced over successive five year carbon budget, periods. The first three carbon budgets for 2008-12, 2013-17 and 2018-22 require emissions to be reduced by 23%, 29% and 35% respectively against 1990 levels. Should the EU adopt a 30% reduction target, we will tighten our legislated carbon budgets accordingly.

Heating Oil

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to encourage households that use heating oil to switch to less carbon intensive fuels. [84613]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Sheffield, Heeley (Meg Munn) on 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 659-60W.

Oil and Gas: Prices

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department used for the price of *(a)* oil and *(b)* gas in (i) 2020 and (ii) 2030 to establish the baseline scenario in the electricity market reform White Paper. [82355]

Charles Hendry: The impact assessment (IA) accompanying the electricity market reform (EMR) White Paper provides details on the fossil fuel price assumptions used in establishing the EMR baseline. These assumptions are based on DECC's 2010 updated energy projections. In the central case, for years 2020 and 2030, the estimates are shown in the following table:

	2020	*2030*
Oil ($/bbl)	81.8	92
Gas (p/therm)	68.5	76.1

The EMR White Paper IA can be found at the following web link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/policy-legislation/EMR/2180-emr-impact-assessment.pdf

In addition, on 23 November 2011, DECC published its updated assessment of the impact of energy and climate change policies on energy prices and bills. Further information can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/about-us/economics-social-research/3593-estimated-impacts-of-our-policies-on-energy-prices.pdf

Oil: Carbon Emissions

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the amount of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the extraction and combustion of a barrel of *(a)* Angolan crude oil, *(b)* Nigerian crude oil, *(c)* Venezuelan crude oil and *(d)* oil from Canadian tar sands. [84917]

Charles Hendry: While the Department does not hold such information, the European Commission has commissioned various studies which estimate values associated with particular grades of crude oil so as to inform the implementation of the fuel quality directive.

Emissions can vary according to a range of factors, including the relative 'heaviness' of crude oil sources (countries often produce more than one grade of crude), the technology employed in processing and refining the crude and the amount of associated gas flaring.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many Housing Revenue Account tenanted properties have feed-in tariff installations in the UK; [84392]

(2) how many Housing Revenue Account tenanted properties have feed-in tariff solar photovoltaic installations in the UK. [84393]

Gregory Barker: Most feed-in tariffs (FITs) installations on housing revenue account tenanted properties are solar photovoltaic (PV), so the same answer applies to both questions asked.

This information is not available in the form requested.

However, latest available Ofgem data show that 19.6% of all solar PV FITs payments are made to a generator or a nominated recipient for more than one PV installation, i.e. the single entity is in receipt of payment for more than one FIT installation. This "multi-installation" category includes social housing projects and other offers (such as commercial rent-a-roof schemes) where the occupant benefits from the electricity produced but is not in receipt of the FITs payment.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the timetable set by his Department for implementation of the recently announced changes to feed-in tariffs conform with Cabinet Office best practice guidelines on the timetables for the introduction, removal and amendment of regulations. [84918]

Gregory Barker: This consultation period is shorter than that recommended in the code of practice on consultation for most standard consultations, but does conform with the provisions made in the code of practice for certain consultations to be held over shorter periods. The Government consider that a shorter period (eight weeks) for the consultation on solar photovoltaic tariffs is justified given the small number of issues covered by the consultation and the urgency of the budgetary risk it is focused on addressing; and that the eight-week period is consistent with the code of practice on consultation.

Following the close of the consultation on 23 December 2011, and subject to the representations received and due parliamentary process, changes will be implemented on 1 April 2012.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with representatives of the Oil Firing Technical Association on the inclusion of bioliquids in the Renewable Heat Incentive. [84614]

Charles Hendry: Representatives of the Oil Firing Technical Association have been talking regularly to my officials. They have provided useful evidence on the costs, deployability and sustainability of the renewable heating oil blend which we are considering as part of developing the second phase of the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme.

Scottish Government

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when officials of his Department last met officials of the Scottish Government to discuss fuel poverty. [84699]

Gregory Barker: My officials work closely with their colleagues in the Scottish Government on this important issue. Their most recent policy meeting was on 3 October to discuss the Green Deal, the Energy Company Obligation and Fuel Poverty. Officials have also met at a number of recent Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation consultation events.

Solar Power

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what talks his Department has had with banks regarding loans held by companies engaged in solar panel installation. [84921]

Gregory Barker: DECC engages regularly with the finance community, including banks, and the feed-in tariff team have met with a very broad range of banks from UK high street to large international banks while developing the comprehensive review of the feed-in tariffs scheme.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what methodology he used to determine the figures for a return on investment for solar photovoltaic tariffs set at the proposed rate. [82245]

Gregory Barker: The DECC FITs model calculates the generation tariff necessary to deliver an intended return on capital for a well-sited solar photovoltaic (PV) installation in any given tariff band. The tariff calculations are based on a reference installation in each tariff band with a defined set of characteristics. The tariff is set at a level that equalises all costs and revenues of solar photovoltaic systems over its lifetime, after applying a 4.5% to 5% return on upfront capital. A note setting out the methodology in more detail will be placed in the Library of the House.

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* his Department or *(b)* Ofgem collect information on the number of solar photovoltaic panels installed under the feed-in tariff by (i) British Gas, (ii) EDF Energy, (iii) E.on, (iv) NPower, (v) Scottish Power and (vi) Scottish and Southern Energy; and if he will place a copy of any such information in the Library. [83416]

Gregory Barker: This information is not collected by the Department nor by Ofgem.

Water: Meters

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to ensuring flexibility in his planned smart meter procurement to allow the later addition of smart water metering. [84278]

Gregory Barker: Our recent consultation document[1] on the Data and Communications Company (DCC) set out proposals for the provision of value-added services in future, which could include water metering. We are currently analysing responses to this consultation and are conducting procurements for the provision of data and communications services, which will enable us to explore the cost of different levels of functionality and capacity, for smart energy metering and other purposes.

We have also made clear our intention that the enduring technical solution will employ open standards and protocols allowing the integration of other equipment, potentially including smart water meters.

[1] Smart Metering Implementation Programme: A consultation on the detailed policy design of the regulatory and commercial framework for DCC:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/smart-metering-imp-prog/2883-cons-detailed-policy-design-of-dcc.pdf

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Females

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Afghanistan on the number of Afghan women attending the Bonn conference; and if he will make a statement. [84257]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. and learned Member for Camberwell and Peckham (Ms Harman) on 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 675W.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will include a section on developments in gender equality and the involvement of women in his monthly reports to Parliament on Afghanistan. [84963]

Alistair Burt: The Afghanistan Monthly Report to Parliament covers progress across all relevant areas each month. We include updates on gender equality and the involvement of women when appropriate.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure there is adequate discussion on women's rights in Afghanistan at the Bonn Conference. [84974]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 674-675W.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the decision to withdraw the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team from Afghanistan. [84946]

Alistair Burt: The Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) remains focused on strengthening Helmand's governance and development, working closely with ISAF to support Afghan provincial and district authorities. We will reduce staff numbers gradually leading up to the end of 2014 and this will be done in a responsible fashion. This is appropriate as the role of the PRT continues to evolve away from direct delivery of services to increased support to the local Afghan Government, as the latter's capacity for independent delivery continues.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the decision was taken to withdraw the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team from Afghanistan in line with the timetable set out for the withdrawal of combat troops; and which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials were involved. [84947]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), agreed in June, after consultation with cross-Whitehall officials, that the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team should close by the end of 2014, the same point by which the Prime Minister has made clear that UK troops will no longer be serving in a combat role, or in significant numbers, in Afghanistan.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there will be any conditions attached to the withdrawal of the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team from Afghanistan. [84948]

Alistair Burt: We are confident that the end of 2014 represents a realistic and achievable drawdown date for the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team, as the capacity of the Afghan Government for direct delivery of services and maintaining security increases. It is in line with the timescale agreed between ISAF and the Afghan Government for drawdown of all Provincial Reconstruction Teams across Afghanistan. Progress will be subject to regular review of conditions on the ground.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the decision to withdraw the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team from Afghanistan in line with the timetable set out for the withdrawal of combat troops was discussed within the National Security Council; and on what dates these discussions took place. [84949]

Alistair Burt: The decision to drawdown the Helmand Provincial Reconstruction Team was not discussed within the National Security Council.

Afghanistan: USA

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Afghanistan on the decision of the Loya Jirga on the Strategic Partnership Agreement with America; and if he will make a statement. [84775]

Alistair Burt: Our ambassador in Kabul discussed the outcomes of the Traditional Loya Jirga with Afghan National Security Advisor Spanta and Defence Minister Wardak on 22 November 2011. I expect to discuss this further with Afghan Foreign Minister Rassoul at the Bonn conference on 5 December 2011.

Armed Forces: Children

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to assist child soldiers who have been released from service. [84912]

Mr Bellingham: Britain is helping to assist the rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers. We do this indirectly, by funding organisations with the necessary expertise to provide children with the specialist care and approaches that they need to reintegrate into society.

For example, in 2010, the Department for International Development (DFID) funded a £2 million UNICEF project to help discharge and rehabilitate members of the Maoist Army in Nepal, approximately 3,000 of whom had been recruited as children. In the aftermath of the 2008-09 conflict in Gaza, DFID funded projects

in 2009-10 which provided psychosocial support to almost 10,000 children and care-givers, and cleared unexploded ordnance at 20 schools, allowing 220,000 children to return to school.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Ugandan Government on the use of child soldiers by the National Liberation Army. [84913]

Mr Bellingham: The British high commission in Kampala is in close and regular contact with the Ugandan Government concerning the full range of conflict issues affecting that country. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in particular poses the greatest threat to children in the region, and is responsible for numerous offences against children, including forced recruitment and acts of sexual violence.

The British Government remain committed to helping the victims of the LRA and to tackling the root causes of the conflict. This includes allocating £16 million of funding to help young and vulnerable individuals as part of a wider programme in Northern Uganda, and a contribution of US$35 million towards a World Bank led effort to support the demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants in the greater Great Lakes region of Central Africa.

The Allied Democratic Force/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU), which operates largely in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), is also known to commit sporadic offences against children. Jamil Mukulu, the head of the ADF/NALU, is subject to sanctions under the United Nations regime applied to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government have any diplomatic relations with countries in which child soldiers operate. [84914]

Mr Bellingham: Britain maintains diplomatic relations with the vast majority of countries worldwide. Child soldiers are present in several of those countries. We believe that maintaining diplomatic relations allows us to engage more effectively on the issue of child soldiers.

The UN, which helps to lead the international response to the issue of child soldiers, does not implicate countries as violators of children's rights. Rather it identifies and lists specific parties to a conflict which are responsible for grave violations against children.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will estimate the number of child soldiers deployed around the world. [84915]

Mr Bellingham: It is not possible to give a reliable estimate of the number of child soldiers. There are several estimates in use, ranging from 150,000 to 300,000. The reasons for this wide estimate include foremost the lack of easy access to armed groups, which prevents reliable reporting. Also, the nature of child recruitment is frequently informal, and loose associations with armed groups, such as children being used for intelligence gathering roles, are particularly difficult to document.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking with his international counterparts to end the practice of using child soldiers. [84916]

Mr Bellingham: Britain is committed to ending the recruitment and deployment of child soldiers. We apply diplomatic pressure to offending governments and armed groups, as well as funding projects to help protect and rehabilitate vulnerable children. Britain is also a member of the UN Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, which helps to lead the international response to the issue of child soldiers. This includes pressing offenders to enter into concrete action plans with the UN to verify and release any child soldiers associated with them.

British Overseas Territories: Biodiversity

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on including in the Overseas Territories White Paper a target to halt overall loss of biodiversity by 2020 in all British overseas territories. [84035]

Mr Bellingham: The White Paper on the Overseas Territories will be published in 2012. There is currently a public consultation under way, including through a web-based platform to gather views on the Government's strategy towards the Overseas Territories, as announced by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), on 14 September. Work is also under way across Whitehall to consider how each Government Department can contribute to delivery of the strategy. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is engaged in this process, but no specific decisions have yet been taken on the structure or content of the White Paper.

British Virgin Islands: Elections

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date the Governor of the British Virgin Islands discussed his invitation of election observers to observe elections in the territory with *(a)* the Cabinet and *(b)* the Leader of the Opposition of the British Virgin Islands; and on what date the Governor arranged for invitations for observers to be extended. [84482]

Mr Bellingham: The Governor discussed the proposal to invite election observers during Cabinet meetings on 19 and 26 October. Letters of invitation were sent to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and to the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on 27 October. The Governor discussed the initiative with the Leader of the Opposition on 31 October, in advance of the issue of a press release.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the invitation to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States to observe elections in the British Virgin Islands in 1995 was at the initiative of the *(a)* government and *(b)* Governor of the territory; and who extended the invitation. [84483]

Mr Bellingham: The information requested is not readily available to either the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or the Governor's Office in Tortola.

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84172]

Mr Lidington: As of October 2011, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's communications directorate had 93 members of staff. A headcount is set out as follows. Headcount has reduced from 116 reported for 2009-10. There are also embedded communications staff within directorates and staff overseas with a communications remit, but details of these are not available except at disproportionate cost.

Discipline	*Total*
Internal communications	5
Digital/social media	17
Strategic communications	26
Corporate communications	14
Marketing	0
Media/press	28
Senior management	1
Support staff	2

A review of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's communications directorate has now been completed. Strategic communications responsibilities will fall to relevant policy directorates within the Department. Alongside other changes, it is planned to reduce communications directorate staffing to a maximum of 69 by April 2012.

The British Council's centralised communications function was staffed as follows in November 2011. There are also staff overseas with a communications remit, but details of these are not available except at disproportionate cost.

Discipline	*Total*
Internal communications	4
Digital/social media	3
Strategic communications	0
Corporate communications	2
Marketing	0
Media/press	5
Senior management	1
Support staff	0

Departmental Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on *(a)* the recovery of legal costs from failed applicants for judicial review and *(b)* enforcement of any such recovery; and whether any exceptions apply. [83913]

Mr Lidington: It is our policy to seek an order for the recovery of costs against applicants for judicial review whose applications fail. However under the Civil Procedure Rules the court has a discretion as to whether costs will be awarded against an unsuccessful party. In principle we will seek to enforce an order for costs against an unsuccessful applicant. However there may be legal constraints against recovery from the Legal Services Commission against an applicant who is in receipt of Legal Aid. In addition, in privately funded cases there may be practical constraints, for example where the costs to be recovered are minimal and the costs of enforcement are disproportionate.

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what receptions and events have been hosted by his Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by a third party. [84171]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not maintain a central record of all events and receptions hosted by the Department and so the information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84242]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not outsourced any new services centrally in the last five years, although it continues to manage those contracts where services have been outsourced outside of the time frame of this question.

Procurement responsibilities are devolved to directorates in the UK and our network of posts. Information on all outsourcing activities is not held centrally in the UK and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85060]

Mr Lidington: The percentage of questions answered within five sitting days was as follows:

2011	*Percentage of questions answered*
May	89
June	100
July	100
August	100
September	100
October	98

Foreign Relations: Education

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has any programme in place to educate children on the UK's foreign relations. [84584]

Mr Lidington: While staff are free to make individual arrangements to speak to schools and children's groups, no central programme exists.

Iraq: Human Trafficking

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Iraq on *(a)* tackling trafficking for sexual exploitation and *(b)* providing support to victims of human trafficking. [83997]

Alistair Burt: We have not made specific representations to the Government of Iraq on human trafficking, however, the UK continues to co-ordinate closely with the international community in Iraq on this issue. UK officials regularly attend a 'Trafficking in Persons' working group in Baghdad along with officials from the Government of Iraq and international partners. The group has been looking at a draft Iraqi law on Trafficking in Persons, which is expected to be passed in the near future.

More generally, we continue to monitor closely the situation facing women in Iraq. Some of the most vulnerable are those who have been victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. In the Kurdistan region of Iraq, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is funding a project providing training for staff working in four shelters which provide protection to vulnerable women, including those who are victims of trafficking.

Israel: OECD

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answers of 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 830W and 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 906W, on Israel: OECD, on which date the OECD study team was *(a)* presented to and *(b)* debated by the Committee on Statistics. [84357]

Alistair Burt: The report of the OECD study team was presented to and discussed by the Committee on Statistics on 17 June 2011 and the recommendations were adopted.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answers of 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 830W and 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 906W, on Israel: OECD, what subsequent steps have been taken to ensure Israeli macroeconomic data no longer include data relating to the Golan, East Jerusalem or the West Bank. [84358]

Alistair Burt: The Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) confirmed, following the visit to Israel by members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Statistics Committee in summer 2011, that it will provide statistics that distinguish pre-1967 Israel and the post-1967 areas when required to do so. This confirmed a commitment made by the CBS at the time of the OECD accession review.

The impact on Israel's macroeconomic statistics of disaggregated data was assessed to be very small—less than 4% of GDP—and it was agreed that Israel would not need to provide disaggregated statistics for this. The impact was sufficiently larger for social issues, migration and employment, and it was agreed that in these areas, Israel should be asked to continue providing disaggregated statistics for any study carried out in these areas. Israeli statistics were assessed to have been of good quality and in line with international standards.

Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill 2010-12

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have made of the potential effect of the provisions of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill on the UK's adherence to the Ruggie principles on business and human rights. [84643]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Following the UN Human Rights Council's June 2011 endorsement of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, in which the UK played an important role, the Government are fully committed to implementing those principles as part of a wider strategy on business and human rights. We do not believe that the reforms of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill are incompatible with this commitment. We believe that it will still be possible to bring claims against multinational companies once these reforms are implemented, but that meritorious claims will be resolved at a more proportional cost, while unnecessary and avoidable claims will be deterred from progressing to court.

Lord Ahmed

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the decision by the Pakistani authorities to declare Lord Ahmed of Rotherham persona non grata; and if he will make a statement. [84598]

Alistair Burt: We have not been contacted by the Pakistani authorities on this matter. Such a decision would be a matter for the Pakistani authorities.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84170]

Mr Jeremy Browne: No.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Elections

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he expects elections to take place in the Turks and Caicos Islands; and if he will make a statement. [84873]

Mr Bellingham: I want to see a return to democratic government in the Turks and Caicos Islands as soon as the necessary reforms have been put in place. It remains my intention that the milestones set out in the written ministerial statement of 9 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 40-41WS, should be met and elections held in 2012. I will keep the House informed of progress.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Finance

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many section 4 payment cards are being used by people residing in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [84269]

Damian Green: The latest breakdown by country is:

(a) 194 in Scotland;

(b) 2,014 in England;

(c) 110 in Wales; and

(d) 26 in Northern Ireland.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which retailers participate in the section 4 payment card scheme; and what plans the UK Border Agency has to extend the *(a)* number and *(b)* range of participating retailers. [84270]

Damian Green: The main retailers participating in the payment card scheme are:

Asda;

Tesco;

Sainsbury's;

Morrisons;

The Co-Operative;

Boots; and

Peacocks.

Additionally, a small number of independent outlets also participate in the scheme. Approximately 8,800 retail outlets across the UK accept the payment card.

Negotiations are currently under way to add the British Red Cross and the Salvation Army to the scheme. There are currently no other plans to extend the number of participating outlets.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much in unspent credit has been recovered from section 4 payment cards in each month since the scheme was introduced. [84271]

Damian Green: The figures for each month since June 2010 (when the data began to be collected) are shown in the following table:

	£
2010	
June	29,540
July	32,527
August	22,792
September	20,157
October	21,801
November	21,142
December	19,772
2011	
January	13,012
February	11,212
March	12,550
April	10,014
May	9,442
June	8,784
July	7,155
August	6,672
September	6,248
October	6,520

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will consider the merits of increasing the weekly carry-over limit for the section 4 payment card. [84272]

Damian Green: There are currently no plans to increase the weekly carry-over limit of £5 per person, per week for single supported persons. Supported persons who have children can carry over an unlimited amount.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the merits of extending the section 4 payment card scheme to include charity shops. [84273]

Damian Green: Talks are taking place with a view to adding the British Red Cross and the Salvation Army to the list of retail outlets where the card is accepted. We will consider adding other charity shops to the scheme on a case by case basis.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the UK Border Agency will bring forward proposals to allow users of the section 4 payment card to check card balances *(a)* online and *(b)* in-store at participating retailers. [84274]

Damian Green: There is already an automated 24-hour telephone service that enables payment card users to check their balance. There are no plans to extend this service.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much credit is allocated to section 4 payment cards for an individual with children. [84275]

Damian Green: £35.39 per week is allocated to all supported persons, including children. Additional credits can be added to the Azure card to supported persons with children. These include a £5 per week clothing allowance, a £5 per week allowance for children under one year of age and a £3 per week allowance for children between one and three years of age.

Civil Disorder

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on reimbursement of costs to police authorities affected by the August 2011 public disorder. [71067]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 9 September 2011]:* There is an established system of special grants in place to support forces where they face unexpected or exceptional costs.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in her Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which her Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [82542]

Damian Green: Between 1 October 2010 and 22 November 2011 the following audits have been delivered.

Area	*Final report issued*
Home Office core	
Crime and Policing Group	8
Cross Cutting	2
Financial and Commercial Group	20
Human Resources	6
Strategy and Reform	1
NDPBs	
Identity and Passport Service	7
Independent Police Complaints Commission	1
Independent Safeguarding Authority	7
National Policing Improvement Agency	11
Office for Security and Counter Terrorism	5
Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner	4
UK Border Agency	20
CRB	9
SOCA	13
Total	114

We are able to include non-departmental public body (NDPB) data due to the fact that we provide audit services over a majority of the NDPBs. This would not be possible in other Departments where there are significant numbers of external bodies and/or internal audit services are outsourced. Specifically, as the internal audit services report to the agency/NDPB accounting officer, the Department internal audit services are not directly privy to them.

The data were extracted from our internal audit management information system which is used to track the progress of our audit plan during the year. The data are held securely on our corporate network. The Internal Audit Unit provide a shared service audit to a number of agencies and NDPBs within the Home Office Group, however the process for recording audit progress is consistent across all of them.

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) her Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by her Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84245]

Damian Green: The following tables show the number of press officers and communications officers employed by the Department, its agencies and each non-departmental public body.

The figures show members of staff who are Government Communications Network (GCN) accredited, between the grades of assistant information officer and senior information officer *(a-d)*.

Other positions with a communications remit *(e)* include staff who carry out a communications role within their job or who are not GCN accredited and are managers.

(i) Department

	Number
HO HQ (CD)	
(a) Press officers	[1]29
(b) Internal communications officers	[2]31
(c) External communications officers	
(d) Communication strategy officers	9
(e) Other positions with a communications remit	27

[1] Covering GEO and IPS.
[2] Staff roles cover both internal and external.

(ii) Agencies

	Number
UKBA	
(a) Press officers	[1]13
(b) Internal communications officers	[2]40
(c) External communications officers	[2]39
(d) Communication strategy officers	8
(e) Other positions with a communications remit	18
CRB	
(e) Other positions with a communications remit	11
Identity and Passport Service (IPS)	
(e) Other positions with a communications remit	9

[1] Regional.
[2] Includes staff at GCN and non GCN grades.

(iii) Non-departmental public bodies

	Number
Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)	
(a) Press officers	5
(b) Internal communications officers	1.6
(c) External communications officers	2
(e) Other positions with a communications remit	2.5
Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)	
(b) Internal communications officers	2
(c) External communications officers	[1]5
(e) Other positions with a communications remit	2
National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)	
(a) Press officers	3
(b) Internal communications officers	1
(c) External communications officers	5

(iii) Non-departmental public bodies

	Number
(d) Communication strategy officers	2
Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)	
(a) Press officers	2
(b) Internal communications officers	2
(e) Other positions with a communications remit	5
Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC)	
(e) Other positions with a communications remit	[2]2
Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)	
(e) Other positions with a communications remit	3
Security Industry Authority (SIA)	
(a) Press officers	2
(b) Internal communications officers	2
(c) External communications officers	4
(e) Other positions with a communications remit	1
National Fraud Authority (NFA)	
(e) Other positions with a communications remit	4

[1] These staff also fulfil the role of press officers, alongside other external communication responsibilities.
[2] The posts cover internal and external communication as well as a Stakeholder Engagement and Policy remit.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which services her Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84239]

Damian Green: The services which the Home Department, including its executive agencies, has outsourced in the past five years are as follows:

	Contractor	Outsourced service
2007	Tele performance	Identity and Passport Service; Service to manage contact via telephone and e-mail.
2008	Tele performance	Identity and Passport Service; Handling of Passport Validation Service.
2009	Steria	Identity and Passport Service Business Process Outsourcing; mail handling, cashiering, scanning, query handling and certain data verification
2009	CSC	Identity and Passport Service; Provision of ICT services
2011	Anne's Gate Property	Home Office; Messenger Services

Deportation: Pakistan

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been deported to Pakistan from *(a)* Pendle constituency, *(b)* East Lancashire and *(c)* the UK in each of the last 10 years. [84282]

Damian Green: In answering this question, I have taken deportation to mean removal.

1. The number of individuals removed to Pakistan since 1 January 2004 who were living in the Pendle constituency is 89.

2. The number of individuals removed to Pakistan since 1 January 2004 who were resident in East Lancashire (including Pendle) is 333.

3. The number of individuals removed to Pakistan since 1 January 2004 is 20,588

Figures prior to 2004 are not centrally held.

Figures quoted for parts 1 and 2 are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks.

Figures quoted for part 3 are taken from the "Immigration Statistics: July - September 2011" release, which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Science, Research and Statistics web pages at:

http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Domestic Violence

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women who were victims of domestic violence offences in 2010 had previously been a victim of domestic violence by another partner. [83696]

Lynne Featherstone: Latest available data from the 2008-09 British Crime Survey are provided in the following table showing the proportion of victims, aged 16 to 59, of partner abuse in the last 12 months who had been abused by two or more partners since the age of 16.

Adults aged 16-59 who were victims of partner abuse in the last year by number of abusive partners since the age of 16, by sex

Percentage

Self-completion module, 2008-09 BCS, England and Wales

	Men	Women	All
One partner	46	55	52
Two or more partners	10	22	18
Two partners	9	15	13
Three partners	1	5	4
More than three partners	1	2	2
Do not know	17	5	9
Do not want to answer	26	18	21
Unweighted base	360	813	1,173

Notes:
1. Partner abuse includes non-physical abuse, threats, force, sexual assault and stalking.
2. Percentages include those who could not or did not wish to answer.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to minimise the reduction in education export levels arising from the proposed changes to student visas. [84317]

Damian Green: The Government's fundamental reforms of student visas will tighten up the system, tackle abuse and ensure we continue to attract the brightest and the best students from across the world. No permanent limit has been placed on student visas.

Extradition: USA

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for Immigration to the debate of 24 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 191WH, on extradition, (1) how many people were extradited from the US to the UK in *(a)* each year between 2004 and 2010 and *(b)* 2011 to date; and how many such people were US nationals; [84077]

(2) how many people were extradited from the UK to the US in *(a)* each year between 2004 and 2010 and *(b)* 2011 to date; and how many such people were UK citizens. [84078]

Damian Green *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* The following table provides the figures requested.

	Number of extraditions from the US to the UK under the 2003 Act	*Number of extraditions from the US to the UK under the 1989 Act*	*Number of US nationals*[2]
2004	2	2	n/k
2005	1	0	n/k
2006	3	1	n/k
2007	7	0	0
2008	10	0	1
2009	7	0	0
2010	5	0	2
2011[1]	4	0	2
Totals	39	3	5

[1] Figures for 2011 are up to 29 November 2011

For the purposes of the question, we have taken the "UK" as meaning England and Wales. Scotland deals with its own US cases—as did Northern Ireland until 1 April 2008.

The figures provided on the number of US citizens surrendered to the UK in the Westminster Hall debate on 24 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 191WH, were incorrect. The following figures have been updated in the light of the most recent available information about the nationality of persons extradited.

Information regarding the nationality of those extradited to the UK from the United States has not in the past been routinely recorded, though records have been kept since 2007. Between 2004 and 2006 there were nine extraditions from the US to the UK, however, we have no systematic record of the nationality of the persons extradited.

The following table provides the figures requested.

	Number of extraditions from the UK to the US under the 2003 Act	*Number of extraditions from the UK to the US under the 1989 Act*	*Number of UK nationals*[2]
2004	3	5	2
2005	8	4	6
2006	16	3	[2]10
2007	8	1	0
2008	6	0	2
2009	16	0	[3]4
2010	10	2	1
2011[1]	8	0	2
Total	75	15	27

[1] Figures for 2011 are up to 29 November 2011.
[2] Inc. one US/UK dual national.
[3] Inc. one UK/Iran dual national.

For the purposes of the question, we have taken the "UK" as meaning England and Wales. Scotland deals with its own US cases—as did Northern Ireland until 1 April 2008.

Firearms

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many criminal damage cases recorded by the Metropolitan police have involved the use of firearms yet have not been recorded as a gun crime in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011 to date. [83847]

Nick Herbert: The requested information is not available centrally.

Fireworks: Crime

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to how many incidents involving fireworks police were called in *(a)* St Helens South and Whiston constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [84658]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Home Office. It is not possible to identify either incidents or offences relating to fireworks from the police recorded crime statistics collected and published by the Home Office.

Human Trafficking: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive and the government of Ireland on human trafficking. [84849]

Damian Green: The Minister of Justice for Northern Ireland, David Ford, is a member of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group which I chair to oversee the work of the UK Government on human trafficking. The group last met on 11 October 2011; the Minister for Justice was unable to attend. The group will meet again in April 2012.

Identity and Passport Service: Compensation

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money the Identity and Passport Service has refunded to customers in circumstances where agreed levels of service were not met in the last 12 months. [84709]

Damian Green: For the seven months ending 31 October 2011, the Identity and Passport Service did not meet agreed levels of services in 572 instances, resulting in refunds of £24,332 to its customers. Information for the previous five months is not readily available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Identity Cards

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the final cost in *(a)* compensation and *(b)* decommissioning costs for the identity card scheme. [84246]

Damian Green: The Identity and Passport Service Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11 reported that termination costs of the identity card scheme were £20,175. Within this total was £2,126 of contractual compensation payments to suppliers to the identity card scheme, the remaining £18,049 costs were associated with decommissioning the identity card scheme.

A breakdown of these costs is provided in the Identity and Passport Service Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11, an electronic version of which is available in the Identity and Passport Service section of the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/agencies-public-bodies/ips/

Migration: EU Countries

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-British EU nationals are resident in the UK; and how many UK nationals are resident in EU countries outside the UK. [85033]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Question asking how many non-British EU nationals are resident in the UK; and how many UK nationals are resident in EU countries outside the UK (85033).

The most recent estimate of the number of non-British EU nationals who reside in the UK is 2,081,000 with a corresponding margin of error of +/- 62,000. This estimate, along with other published Population by Country of Birth and Nationality estimates, is based on the Annual Population Survey and relates to the 12 month period of April 2010 to March 2011. These can be found on the ONS website, table 2.1 & 2.2 at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-235204

The margin of error refers to the 95 per cent confidence interval and is a measure of the uncertainty associated with making inferences from a sample.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) does not collect information regarding UK nationals resident outside the UK. However, Eurostat publishes figures on population by citizenship for EU countries, these are available at:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database

Police: Baton Rounds

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is issued to police forces on the deployment of baton rounds; and how any such deployment is authorised. [81056]

Nick Herbert: The police no longer use baton rounds. They were replaced in June 2005 when the attenuating energy projectile was introduced into service. The attenuating energy projectile is an impact round and performs very differently from baton rounds.

Use of the attenuating energy projectile is regulated by the Home Office 'Code of Practice on the Police use of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons' (2003).

The Association of Chief Police Officers' 'Manual of Guidance on the Management, Command and Deployment of Armed Officers' (2011) provides operational context to the code of practice. Guidance on the use of the attenuating energy projectile in public order situations is also provided by the Association of Chief Police Officers' 'Manual of Guidance on Keeping the Peace' (2010).

Both the code of practice and the Manual of Guidance on the Management, Command and Deployment of Armed Officers make it clear that deployment and use of the attenuating energy projectile is an operational matter for the chief constable of the relevant force area to authorise.

Police: Demonstrations

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with police forces in England on the policing of *(a)* English Defence League and *(b)* British National party marches; and if she will make a statement. [69211]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office routinely discusses with the police issues which raise public, media and parliamentary interest, including marches by the English Defence League and the British National party.

Police: Finance

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential savings to police budgets arising from *(a)* centralised procurement and *(b)* force collaboration in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13 and (iii) 2013-14. [78997]

Nick Herbert: The Government estimate that by end of March 2015 £200 million per annum of savings can be made from the procurement of non-IT goods and services via the Collaborative Police Procurement Programme (CPPP). To date, over £70 million has been delivered against these estimates for non-IT.

The Government have been clear that there is also potential for at least £180 million of savings per annum through ICT. At its simplest, it cannot be sensible for there to be some 2,000 IT systems across 43 forces, employing 5,000 staff.

The Government have established a programme within the Home Office to oversee the establishment of a police-led ICT company. A key objective of the ICT company will be to improve the value for money that the police service receives from its spend on ICT services.

A report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, due in January 2012, will provide a comprehensive picture of the types of collaboration that exist, the barriers to collaboration and equally those factors that enable progress to be made in making savings and improving efficiency. The report will, for the first time, identify the savings that can be derived from collaborating across a range of different functions.

Repatriation: Expenditure

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on assisted voluntary return in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median cost per return was in each such year. [84767]

Damian Green: The Assisted Voluntary Returns programme (AVR) is made up of three schemes:

Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP);

Assisted Voluntary Returns of Irregular Migrants (AVRIM); and

Assisted Voluntary Returns for Families and Children (AVRFC).

The AVR programme includes applying for travel documentation, flights, transport to the airport, assistance on departure, transits if applicable and transport from the arrival airport. It also includes reintegration support up to a maximum of £1,500 for VARRP, £2,000 for AVRFC and £1,000 for vulnerable AVRIM departures. Not all those who leave are eligible for, or indeed take advantage of, the reintegration assistance.

The UK Border Agency spent £4,325,272 on the programme in 2008-09 to return 4,558 people. A further £4,066,623 was spent from the European Refugee Fund.

In 2009-10, £11,935,519 was spent by the UK Border Agency to return 5,132 people. A further £3,974,777 was allocated by the European Refugee Fund.

In 2010-11, £5,763,551 was spent by the UK Border Agency to return 3,989 people. A further £5,090,793 was allocated by the European Refugee Fund.

European Refugee Fund data for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are yet to be audited and we are therefore unable to provide total expenditure for those years. The mean cost per return based solely on the amount spent by the UK Border Agency is:

	£
2008-09	949
2009-10	2,325
2010-11	1,444

Information on the cost of each return is not collated centrally. To calculate the median cost per return would therefore require examination of individual records which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff who have left the UK Border Agency in the last two years have been offered contract work in border control during the London 2012 Olympic Games; and at what cost. [80585]

Damian Green *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The UK Border Agency (UKBA) Olympics Programme have, to date, trained 25 former staff of which 11 left UKBA in the last two years. 16 additional former employees are currently booked in for refresher training during December and all 16 left UKBA in the last two years.

In total UKBA will be recruiting approximately 120 former staff to be deployed to the border for a maximum of 20 days during the two peak arrivals periods immediately ahead of the opening ceremonies next year. The total pay cost for that deployment next year is currently estimated to be £508,000.

TREASURY

Child Care Vouchers

Jessica Morden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps his Department is taking to encourage the uptake of child care vouchers by *(a)* employers and *(b)* employees; [84972]

(2) what information his Department holds on the number of parents who use child care vouchers. [84973]

Mr Gauke: Child care vouchers are an employer provided benefit. The Government support this benefit by providing a limited tax exemption for both employers and employees.

Since child care vouchers are not always the best option for individuals it is not appropriate for the Government to encourage their uptake. We aim to enable both employers and employees to make an informed decision by making available guidance and information principally via the HMRC website.

In addition HMRC maintains regular dialogue with the child care voucher business sector.

Figures provided to HMRC by the major voucher providers suggest that the total number of voucher recipients in the quarter ending in September 2011 was approximately 500,000.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84241]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury outsourced its Information and Communications Technology (ICT) service to Fujitsu Services Ltd in June 2009.

Enterprise Zones: Wales

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with the Welsh Government on capital allowances in relation to the implementation of enterprise zones in Wales; and what the *(a)* dates and *(b)* details were of each such discussion. [84703]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Officials have had a number of telephone and email discussions with the Welsh Government on enhanced capital allowances in enterprise zones and met on 19 October 2011. The discussions were about

the design of the allowance and the process for the Welsh Government and the Treasury agreeing the location of qualifying zones.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to ensure payments are made to Equitable Life policyholders who are eligible for compensation under the Government's compensation scheme before Christmas. [85020]

Mr Hoban: The scheme started making payments on 30 June this year, and hundreds of payments have been made to date. The scheme will be publishing a report on the volume and value of payments made to date in the new year.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions he has met with the Federation of Small Businesses to discuss the introduction of a fiscally-neutral fuel duty stabiliser. [84015]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policy making process. HM Treasury publishes a list of Ministers' meetings involving external organisations online at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what consideration he has given to extending the fuel duty discount pilot scheme; [84540]

(2) if he will estimate the cost of extending the fuel duty discount pilot scheme to rural North Yorkshire. [84541]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government recently secured EU clearance for the introduction of a 5p per litre rural fuel rebate pilot scheme in the Inner and Outer Hebrides, Northern Isles, islands in the Clyde and the Isles of Scilly. The scheme will come into force on 1 March 2012. Beyond this pilot scheme, nothing has been ruled in or out.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the level of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme levy on the general insurance intermediary class in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [84283]

Mr Hoban: Information on the levies collected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme is made publically available in their annual reports. The reports show the following figures for total levies received from the general insurance intermediation class:

	Total levies received (£ million)
2008-09	2.01
2009-10	7.98
2010-11	57.23

National Insurance Contributions

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to extending the national insurance contributions holiday to micro-businesses which employ a young person. [R] [84103]

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the proposal by the Federation of Small Businesses to reduce national insurance contributions for micro-businesses that employ a young person aged between 16 and 24 years. [84117]

Mr Gauke: On 25 November, the Government announced an ambitious programme for tackling youth unemployment. Starting in 2012, the Youth Contract will deliver:

an additional 250,000 work experience or sector based work academy places for every unemployed 18 to 24-year-old;

more Jobcentre Plus support for 18 to 24-year-olds, including, extra advisor time and a careers interview from the National Careers Service and weekly, rather than fortnightly, signing;

a total of 160,000 wage incentive places (at £2,275 each) to make it easier for employers to take on young people;

additional funding to support the growth of 16-24 apprenticeships, ensuring the funding for at least 40,000 incentive payments (at £1,500 each) for employers next year to raise demand for 16-24 apprenticeships; and

a new £50 million a year programme for those 16 and 17-year-olds not in employment, education or training to get them learning, on an apprenticeship or in a job with training.

Non-domestic Rates: Business

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on plans to mitigate the effect on small retail businesses of the increase in business rates planned for April 2012. [82770]

Mr Gauke: The Government's commitment to the annual RPI cap on business rates means that there has been no real terms increase in business rates since 1990.

The Government announced in the autumn statement two measures to support businesses, including small retail businesses.

The Government will extend the small business rate relief holiday for a further six months from 1 October 2012 and will give all businesses the opportunity to defer 60 per cent of the increase in their 2012-13 business rate bills as a result of the RPI uprating, to be repaid equally across the following two years.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84182]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Treasury does not use postcodes for purposes other than correspondence.

Public Expenditure

Gavin Barwell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate total public spending *(a)* in 2009-10 in current prices and *(b)* if it increased by the rate of inflation from 1997-98 onwards. [83279]

Danny Alexander: Total public spending in 2009-10 in current prices was £689.3 billion.

In real terms total public spending increased in every year until 2010-11; it then decreases until 2016-17.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which HM Revenue and Customs departments redeployed staff for new anti-evasion and avoidance jobs will work in; and when they will begin work in their new roles. [83481]

Mr Gauke: Redeployment has already started and will continue throughout the whole of the spending review period.

Individuals from all businesses will be considered for redeployment into new anti-evasion and avoidance posts as their current roles within their present business areas come to an end.

HMRC is continuing to consider the bulk redeployment of whole teams into compliance-related operations and will take the opportunity to do so as these arise.

Taxation: Business

Mike Crockart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria HM Revenue and Customs uses to decide when to *(a)* change the terms of payment plans for companies in arrears and *(b)* seek a legal remedy in such cases. [84599]

Mr Gauke: An agreement allowing a company time to pay is monitored by HMRC to ensure the agreed terms are maintained.

Should the terms of the time to pay agreement be breached by the company HMRC will review the position using the same criteria that were applied when the initial request for time to pay was made. The same will apply should the company notify HMRC that its circumstances have changed during the term of the agreement.

Where the company cannot show that it is a viable concern or cannot offer payment over a reasonable period HMRC will seek a legal remedy.

Taxation: Carbon Emissions

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider using revenue from the carbon tax to fund measures to promote energy efficiency. [84956]

Miss Chloe Smith: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith), on 26 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 237W.

Taxation: Olympic Games 2012

Ms Abbott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what taxation arrangements will apply to visiting athletes and staff for the London 2012 Olympics; what estimate he has made of the effect on the level of revenue accruing to the Exchequer of these arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [84548]

Mr Gauke: The International Olympic Committee required all bids for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to include certain tax commitments.

London's bid to host the Games therefore offered, and we have legislated for, a number of tax exemptions for certain non-residents who are competing in the Games or are involved in making them a success.

The Exchequer cost of the exemption will be zero. Where tax exemptions are an explicit condition of hosting a sporting event, providing them is not considered a scoreable cost because there can be no forecast revenues before a bid is successful and the exemptions are a key factor in securing the bid.

VAT: Aviation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the application of VAT to *(a)* intra-community and *(b)* international flights. [84009]

Mr Gauke: No VAT is chargeable on intra-EU or international air passenger transport.

Air freight services supplied to business customers are only subject to UK VAT where the customer is based in the UK. Similar services supplied to non-business customers are subject to UK VAT where the flight begins in the UK and is wholly within the EU. However, no VAT is due where goods are either exported to—or imported from—outside the EU.

Welfare Tax Credits

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average amount is of tax credits paid to households with capital of *(a)* £15,900 and *(b)* between £15,000 and £15,999. [83078]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* The requested information is not available. The tax credits administrative system does not collect information on the capital of claimants.

CABINET OFFICE

Average Earnings

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average hourly rate of pay was for *(a)* each decile of the working population and *(b)* the top 1% of earners in current prices in (i) 1981 and (ii) 2011. [84462]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average hourly rate of pay was for (a) each decile of the working population and (b) the top one per cent of earners in current prices in (i) 1981 and (ii) 2011. (84462)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

The ASHE replaced the New Earnings Survey (NES) in 2004. NES covered Great Britain (GB) only and the comparative estimates available from NES are the quartiles, median and the top and bottom deciles. NES did not publish estimates for all employees and estimates for full-time employees are only published from 1984. For consistency across ASHE and NES, estimates are provided for the quartiles, median and the top and bottom deciles for full-time GB employees.

The following tables show the quartiles, deciles and the top and bottom deciles for hourly pay excluding overtime for full-time GB employees in April 1984 and April 2011 and also these estimates expressed in 2011 prices using RPI as a price deflator.

Hourly pay excluding overtime for full-time GB employee jobs[1], April 1984 and April 2011

£

	Quartiles, median, top and bottom deciles				
	10	*25*	*50*	*75*	*90*
1984	2.10	2.60	3.37	4.58	6.34
2011	7.03	8.98	12.67	18.65	26.90

[1] GB full-time employee jobs on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

Source:

1984 estimates are sourced from the New Earnings Survey (NES) and 2011 estimates are sourced from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics.

Hourly pay excluding overtime at April 2011 prices[1], 1984

£

	Quartiles, median, top and bottom deciles				
	10	*25*	*50*	*75*	*90*
1984	5.56	6.86	8.92	12.10	16.75

[1] Estimates of earnings at 2011 prices have been derived using the retail prices index as the price deflator.

Source:

1984 estimates are sourced from the New Earnings Survey (NES) and 2011 estimates are sourced from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics.

British Overseas Territories: Cabinet Committees

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether any Cabinet sub-committee has discussed the inclusion in the Overseas Territories White Paper of a target to halt overall loss of biodiversity by 2010 in all British Overseas Territories. [84032]

Mr Letwin: In line with the constitutional convention of collective decision-making, and section 2 of the Ministerial Code, the Government do not disclose details of the internal process through which decisions are taken. The contents of the Overseas Territories White Paper are a matter for Ministers at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Communities First Fund

Michael Dugher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what targets his Department has set for the Community First scheme; and how his Department plans to monitor performance against such targets. [85280]

Mr Hurd: Community First is a small grants programme for England with a budget of up to £30 million over four years for funding to neighbourhood groups in targeted wards, and up to £50 million for an endowment match challenge. The Community First programme has been developed to encourage people to come together to make their neighbourhood a better place to live. The design of the programme is to ensure improvements are community-led and that people take responsibility for those things that they can do themselves.

The endowment match challenge is being delivered in partnership with the Community Foundation Network. The small grants money is administered by the Community Development Foundation (CDF). The Cabinet Office monitors the performance of our delivery partners.

The programme aims to stimulate more social action. CDF will monitor this through the funding applications they receive from the panels and through monitoring the websites each panel creates to aid local visibility and transparency.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made in establishing the Community First scheme. [85284]

Mr Hurd: Community First is a small grants programme for England with a budget of up to £30 million over four years for funding to neighbourhood groups in targeted wards, and up to £50 million for an endowment match challenge.

The small grants money is administered by the Community Development Foundation. They began the process of developing local neighbourhood Community First panels on 4 October 2011.

The endowment match challenge is being delivered in partnership with the Community Foundation Network and its members.

Cybercrime

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many meetings he has had with Ministers from the devolved administrations in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland regarding the implementation of the UK Cyber Security Strategy; and what matters have been discussed at such meetings. [84368]

Mr Maude: I have not met Ministers from the devolved Administrations to discuss implementation of the Cyber Security Strategy. However, officials from Cabinet Office met with their counterparts from the Scottish Government.

Relevant officials from the devolved Administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were consulted during the formulation of the strategy, invited to comment on early drafts and their input was incorporated into the final strategy.

Cybercrime: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to ensure that the UK Cyber Security Strategy involves Scottish small and medium-sized enterprises. [84367]

Mr Maude: The Government recently launched the Cyber Security Strategy and have committed to helping small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across the UK as they are crucial to the UK's economic growth.

We will ensure SMEs across the UK can play their part as drivers of new ideas and innovation by bringing forward proposals to help them fully access the value of public procurement as part of the Growth Review. This will include setting an expectation that at least 25% of the value of Government cyber security contracts go to SMEs.

We are also exploring options such as a Government-sponsored venture capital model to unlock innovation on cyber security in SMEs under plans to explore ways in which the world-class expertise in cyber security held by GCHQ can benefit economic growth and support the development of the UK cyber security sector.

UK Trade and Investment will also work to promote the UK's cyber security industry abroad in order to open up foreign markets to SMEs.

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84223]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 89-90W.

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what receptions and events have been hosted by his Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by third parties. [84222]

Mr Hurd: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84232]

Mr Hurd: The services that have been outsourced to external contractors by the Cabinet Office in the last five years are shown in the table:

	Service
2007-08	Telecommunications support services
	Security guarding services
2010-11	Training and related administrative services

Public Relations

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the monetary value was of *(a)* public opinion research and *(b)* public relations contracts awarded by his Department in (i) London and (ii) elsewhere in each of the last five years. [12456]

Mr Maude: The information requested is not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost. Through the implementation of strong controls on marketing and advertising, the Government have reduced expenditure through the Central Office of Information on relevant categories by 80%, or £400 million, in 2010-11.

Details of departmental expenditure over £25,000 by my Department are available at:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/financial-transactions-data-co

Recruitment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will publish the list of executive search companies on *(a)* Lot 1 of the Cabinet Office call off contract and *(b)* all other lots of the Cabinet Office call off contract; and if he will make a statement. [84752]

Mr Maude: The suppliers listed under Lot 1 (All Specialist Areas, all Sectors and all Functions) of the Cabinet Office Executive Search Framework are listed as follows:

Appointments Commission
Equal Approach (formally CHH Recruitment Limited)
Egon Zehnder
Gatenby Sanderson
Hays
Hudson
Korn-Ferry Whitehead Mann
Maloney Search
Odgers Berndston
Penna
Rockpools
Russell Reynolds
Saxton Bampfylde
Veredus

Suppliers under all other lots of the Cabinet Office Executive Search Framework are shown in the following table:

	Supplier
Lot 2 (HR Function)	Green Park
Lot 3 (IT Sector)	Harvey Nash
	Elan Computing

	Supplier
Lot 4 (Communications and Marketing Sector)	CJA Group
	Green Park
	Morgan Hunt
	Taylor Bennett
Lot 5 (Commercial and Procurement Function)	Capita
	CJA Group
	Dickinson Smith Buss
Lot 6 (Social and Operational research, Economics, Statistics and Science and Engineering)	BiSGeorge Henderson
	CJA Group
Lot 7 (Finance and Audit Function)	Morgan McKinley
	Hoggett Bowers
	Morgan Hunt
	Northern Recruitment Group
Lot 8 (all Other Functions/Sectors not covered under Lot 2 to Lot 10 inclusive)	Capita
	Harvey Nash
Lot 9 (Health Sector)	Capita
	Harvey Nash
Lot 10 (Diversity Function)	Green Park
Lot 11 (All Activities associated with Assessment)	Capita
	Gatenby Sanderson
	Odgers Berndston
	OPP
	Penna
	Rachel Frost
	Right Management
	Rockpools
	Tribal Resourcing

Federation of Student Islamic Societies

Mr Lammy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 272W, on the Federation of Student Islamic Societies, if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between the Home Office and civil service fast stream officials regarding the status of the October Federation of Student Islamic Societies event. [82420]

Mr Maude: It is not departmental policy to release e-mails into the public domain. On that basis correspondence cannot be provided.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many contracts his Department has awarded to G4S since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each such contract. [83921]

Mr Maude: Since May 2010, the Cabinet Office has made one payment of £337.11 (VAT inclusive) to G4S Secure Solutions (UK) Ltd. This was for additional security guards for a press event held at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 10 June 2010.

Government Departments: Printing

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress his Department is making on encouraging greater use of shared print services across government. [84774]

Mr Maude: A phased implementation programme is fully under way to 'onboard' central Government Departments to the Print Vendor Partner contract. One Department has already joined with the remainder scheduled to join over the coming months and in line with the expiry of existing contractual arrangements.

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the potential savings to Government Departments through use of shared print services. [84776]

Mr Maude: The Print Vendor Partner contract is estimated to save £21 million over its four-year duration.

Government Departments: Procurement

Roger Williams: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of Government contracts were aggregated into larger contracts as part of the procurement process in the latest period for which figures are available. [84056]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* This information is not held centrally as centralised contracts aggregate spend rather than other contracts. The data we hold show that in 2010-11, £2.5 billion of central Government expenditure was aggregated using Government Procurement Service contracts.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made towards meeting the Government's target that 25% of central Government supplies are procured from small and medium-sized enterprises. [84878]

Mr Maude: The Government have made progress in encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to compete for Government contracts. We have published a progress report on "Making Government business more accessible to SMEs". This can be found at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/government-business-smes

Departments' total procurement spend and direct spend with SMEs are published in their Quarterly Data Summary on departmental websites and the No. 10 website. The most recent figures are for October 2011. They can be found at:

www.number10.gov.uk/news/business-plan-data-oct11/

Infrastructure: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what critical national infrastructure is *(a)* based in Scotland and *(b)* under the legislative competence of the Scottish Government. [84369]

Mr Maude: For reasons of national security we do not publish details of what is assessed to be critical national infrastructure (CNI) or provide information about location.

Responsibility for critical national infrastructure sites within Scotland varies depending on whether sectors or sub-sectors are devolved or reserved. Devolved sectors are the responsibility of the Scottish Government; and reserved sectors the responsibility of sector sponsor Departments.

The Home Office also bears risk at Government level arising from its responsibility for UK national security and counter-terrorism policy including CNI protection (from national security threats).

Members: Correspondence

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) when he expects to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Hammersmith of 17 October 2011 on ministerial conflicts of interest; [81383]

(2) when he plans to reply to question 81383 on ministerial conflicts of interest, tabled on 11 November 2011 for answer on 15 November 2011. [84164]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* The Cabinet Secretary replied to the hon. Member on 30 November 2011.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84221]

Mr Maude: With the exception of the Government Digital Service whose website uses a postcode look-up to direct users to services provided on local authority websites, the Cabinet Office does not use postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail or to confirm addresses.

Public Sector: Pay

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 706-7W, on public sector: pay, if he will provide numerical estimates for employees in each category. [84084]

Mr Hurd *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question which was pursuant to the Answer of 15 November 2011, Official Report, column 706-7W, on public sector pay, asking that numerical estimates for employees in each category be provided. (84084)

The original question asked how many public sector workers who worked (a) part-time and (b) full-time received a salary of less than £15,000 per annum in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many part-time public sector workers earned less than £15,000 per annum and received a full-time equivalent salary of greater than £15,000.(79794)

Annual levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay, who have been in the same job for more than a year. ASHE methodology cannot be used to provide estimates of the numbers of employees whose earnings is less than a specific amount, but can be used to provide estimates of percentage of employees in that category. These proportions can be applied to employment estimates from the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey and the Labour Force Survey.

In April 2010 the estimate for the number of public sector jobs taken from the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey is 6.3 million and the estimate for the proportion of part-time employees taken from the Labour Force Survey is 30 per cent. Based on these estimates there were 4.4 million full-time public sector workers and 1.9 million part-time public sector workers in April 2010.

From these sources it is estimated that 1.3 million part-time and 0.3 million full-time public sector employees earned less than £15,000 per annum in April 2010. Of the part-time public sector employees who earned less than £15,000 per annum, ONS estimates that 0.8 million received a full-time equivalent salary greater than £15,000. Full-time equivalent salaries were derived from annual pay by pro-rating the part-time employees' paid hours worked to the median estimate of paid hours worked by full-time employees in the public sector.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he last met representatives of the TUC to discuss the public sector pension dispute. [84840]

Mr Maude: Details of Cabinet Office Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

Public Sector: Redditch

Karen Lumley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of people employed in the public sector in Redditch in each of the next three years. [84822]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of people employed in the public sector in Redditch in each of the next three years (84822).

ONS does not produce forecasts for public sector employment, therefore figures are not available. For the 12 month period ending March 2011 it was estimated that 13,000 people were employed in the public sector in Redditch.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Social Justice Committee

Michael Dugher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many meetings of the Social Justice Committee *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have attended since its establishment. [85282]

Mr Maude: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when and how often they meet and which Ministers have attended, is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Stationery Office: Security

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he has had with The Stationery Office on secure storage of Government documents prior to publication. [84058]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* The Stationery Office is subject to the same security and confidentiality considerations as any other third party supplier to Government. This includes complying with best practice standards for Information Assurance such as the British Standard BS27000 series. Where sensitive Government information is concerned then more robust requirements may apply, as set out in the HMG Security Policy Framework, available from the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/resource-library/security-policy-framework

I have not held any meetings with The Stationery Office to discuss storage issues. The National Archives (TNA) manages the contract with The Stationery Office for the publication of legislation and statutory instruments, this includes appropriate security requirements.

Voluntary Work

Michael Dugher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made in establishing the Community Organisers programme. [85285]

Mr Hurd: The Community Organisers programme is currently working in over 20 areas across England in mostly disadvantaged communities, with further areas being added over the lifetime of the programme. 47 organisers have begun their 12 month training programme and are now working in their communities, with a further 41 to begin their training later this week.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what targets his Department has set for the Community Organisers programme; and how his Department plans to monitor performance against such targets. [85286]

Mr Hurd: The coalition Government announced their commitment to train 5,000 community organisers over the lifetime of this Parliament. The Community Organisers programme is about stimulating and supporting greater social action, especially in areas of high deprivation.

The Government have appointed Locality to deliver the Community Organisers programme at arm's length from Government. Over the four-year period, Locality expects to recruit between 100-200 local organisations across England to host community organisers. Recruitment of community organisers is undertaken locally by host organisations.

The Cabinet Office monitors the quality and number of host organisations and community organisers through monthly programme board meetings and reporting cycles.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what discussions he has had with organisations representing deaf young people on improving access to National Citizen Service programmes for *(a)* deaf young people and *(b)* other young people with a disability. [84924]

Mr Hurd: It is important that young people with disabilities, including young deaf people, are able to play a full part in the National Citizen Service. The Cabinet Office sought advice from disability organisations to produce a plan to enable young people with disabilities to take part, which providers were assessed on. We will learn from the evaluation of the 2011 pilots, due to be published in February 2012, to further ensure that there are no barriers to participating in the National Citizen Service. Department for Education staff plan to meet with The National Deaf Children's Society in the new year to discuss how to improve access to the National Citizen Service.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department has taken to ensure deaf young people have access to National Citizen Service programmes. [84925]

Mr Hurd: During the bidding process for the 2012 pilots, providers were closely assessed on how they would adapt their programmes to support participants with additional needs. They have planned a range of measures for the recruitment and activity phases.

Providers of the 2011 pilots made a range of adaptations to allow deaf young people to participate. These included in-kind support from the National Deaf Children's Society including a volunteer interpreter; use of hearing loops where available; awareness training for staff working with the young person; use of text messaging; and allowing peer supporters to attend with the young person. Providers will be supported to build on this for delivery in 2012.

The independent evaluation of the National Citizen Service will provide further detail on providers' effectiveness at addressing any barriers to participation, and the Department will ensure that any lessons from this are learnt and implemented. The evaluation is due for publication in February 2012.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaf young people have participated in National Citizen Service programmes to date. [84926]

Mr Hurd: An independent evaluation of the National Citizen Service pilot programme is currently collecting and analysing data on the characteristics of the young people who took part across the 12 pilot schemes in 2011. That work will conclude shortly and I will then be able to provide the House with a full update.

Departmental Written Questions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to answer question 12456 from the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire on Public Opinion Research, tabled on 6 September 2010. [83836]

Mr Maude: I replied to the hon. Member today.

TRANSPORT

Special Advisers

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether draft answers to parliamentary questions prepared by officials in her Department are cleared by special advisers *(a)* before and *(b)* after the relevant Minister. [79558]

Norman Baker: Special advisers may on occasion contribute to the answers to parliamentary questions at appropriate points in the drafting process. Ministers clear questions for publication. Special advisers do not.

Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on the future of the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee; and if she will make a statement. [84742]

Norman Baker: The Government are minded to abolish the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) as a statutory body but will explore options for continuing to gain the disability advice they need through a more flexible, accountable structure. I made a written ministerial statement on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 21-2WS, seeking views and evidence with regard to potential successor arrangements. I also held a workshop with stakeholders on 11 July.

These views have informed the possible successor arrangements and I intend to consult formally on these early in the new year.

I will consider the responses to this consultation, including whether those responses affect the decision to abolish DPTAC.

Driving Instruction

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with *(a)* the police and *(b)* other public bodies on the potential benefits of providing preparatory training to young people before they learn to drive; and if she will make a statement. [84303]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has not had any discussions on this issue. I have discussed the benefits of improving the learning to drive process with a number of stakeholders.

While understanding road safety issues from a young age is important, research suggests that giving pre-learners driving skills before they are 17 years old may not have a road safety benefit.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support her Department provides for Pathfinder driving schools; and if she will make a statement. [84304]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* The Driving Standards Agency does not provide financial or other forms of support to Pathfinder driving schools.

East Anglia Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many trains are in service on the National Express East Anglia Great Eastern Line. [83711]

Mrs Villiers: The fleet deployment plan provided by National Express East Anglia for the timetable running from May to December 2011 shows an allocation of 11 locomotive-hauled sets, and 147 electric multiple units to Great Eastern services each day (Monday to Friday).

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of how many trains will be in service on the Great Eastern Line under the new franchise holders. [83712]

Mrs Villiers: The successful bid for the Greater Anglia franchise by Abellio Greater Anglia Ltd includes a fleet deployment plan that allocates 11 locomotive-hauled sets and 147 electric multiple units to Great Eastern services each day (Monday to Friday).

East Coast Railway Line

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the adequacy of east coast main line services north of York. [85346]

Mrs Villiers: East coast main line services north of York were assessed and revised as part of the development of the new east coast main line timetable that was introduced on 22 May 2011. The adequacy of all train services is under constant review by the train operators.

Felixstowe-Nuneaton Railway Line: Freight

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial support her Department provided to the Felixstowe to Nuneaton Phase 2 rail freight upgrade in the last financial year; and if she will make a statement. [84311]

Mrs Villiers: None. However Network Rail has funding for the development of schemes in Control Period 5 (2014 to 2019) and has identified a number of freight schemes in the Initial Industry Plan. These could be developed under the Strategic Freight Network subject to available funding.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will conduct a strategic appraisal of phase II of the planned Y network before a final decision on phase I is undertaken; and if she will postpone taking a decision on whether to proceed with phase I until an appraisal of phase II has been consulted upon. [84114]

Justine Greening: The documents published to inform the recent consultation on HS2 provided a strategic assessment of the planned Y network. This included an assessment of the overall case for the proposed network in the main consultation document:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/consultation-document

an assessment of the economic costs and benefits in the Economic Case for HS2:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/economic-case

and an assessment by Atkins of the case for enhancements to existing lines as an alternative to HS2:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/strategic-alternatives

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when her Department expects to complete work on *(a)* train diagrams, *(b)* projected operating costs and *(c)* rolling stock purchases for services on the Y network. [84115]

Justine Greening: The long-term specification and operation of services on High Speed 2 (HS2), including train diagrams which would inform rolling stock strategies and operating costs, would be a decision for the eventual operator of HS2. It would not be appropriate to decide service specifications so far ahead of the operation of the potential HS2 service due to the uncertainty around how the rail market might develop in the interim. It has been necessary to make informed assumptions about service specifications and about associated rolling stock requirement costs in order to assess the case for new high speed lines, which are set out in chapter two of the Economic Case for HS2, but these are one possible option only and so should be taken as illustrative only. Subject to the outcome of the public consultation, these proposals would be developed as part of the ongoing development of the business case for HS2.

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when her Department expects to produce a comprehensive statement of the likely patterns of services on the classic network after High Speed 2 is operational. [84116]

Justine Greening: It would not be appropriate to take decisions on service specifications more than a decade in advance of even the first phase of HS2 opening.

In order to inform the development of the case for the initial phase of the proposed network, HS2 Ltd developed an illustrative classic network service specification, which was published in the Technical Appendices to its original March 2010 report, available at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2ltd/technicalappendix/

As part of its current work on route options for the second phase of the proposed network, HS2 Ltd will consider potential classic network service specifications taking into account released capacity from the full Y network on the west coast, east coast and midland main lines.

High Speed 2 Railway Line: Scotland

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential benefits to the Scottish economy of the proposed High Speed 2 network. [84647]

Justine Greening: Table 6.5 of HS2 Ltd's Demand and Appraisal Report

http://www.hs2.org.uk/assets/x/78304

provides an assessment of the split of benefits between regions according to where trips originate, which shows approximately 5% of overall benefits from the proposed Y network relating to trips beginning in Scotland.

The Government indicated in the 2010 National Infrastructure Plan their intention over the longer term to continue development of the high-speed rail network and rail connections between the north and south of the country to further reduce journey times to Glasgow and Edinburgh, which would be expected to see the benefits accruing to Scotland increase further.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to her Department will be of reorganising the Maritime Coastguard Agency in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; and what steps she is taking to ensure the level of safety is not affected by the closure of coastguard stations. [84154]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* The cost of reorganising the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in 2011-12 will comprise, largely, the opportunity cost of staff time, including any associated items such as travel and expenses, and the direct costs incurred in running the public meetings held in conjunction with the first public consultation. A more detailed breakdown could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Following the decision announced on 22 November, reorganisation costs for 2012-13 will be dependent on the outcome of, among other things, negotiations with the trade union, and the terms of any contractual or other agreements entered into during the period. There will also be the opportunity costs associated with staff time and associated travel and expenses.

Throughout this reorganisation the Maritime and Coastguard Agency will continually assess risk; the timetable for Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) closures will remain flexible for operational reasons.

HM Coastguard will maintain appropriate levels of service during this period by utilising both existing area pairing arrangements and the incremental closure of MRCCs once the Maritime Operations Centre (MOC) is commissioned, tested and fully operational.

The decision to locate the MOC at Kites Croft, Fareham (a site designed and built originally to be the South East Fire Control Centre) removes the requirement

to either construct or refurbish an existing building. This enables the MOC to be fully operational at the earliest opportunity, reducing both the complexity and risk involved with setting up the MOC as well as the risk of MRCCs absorbing the workload from the closing stations.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Empty Property

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has for the future of the empty premises *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by the Maritime Coastguard Agency following the closure of coastguard stations in (i) Liverpool and (ii) the UK. [84954]

Mike Penning: The maritime rescue co-ordination centres (MRCCs) at Great Yarmouth and Clyde are leased properties and will be vacated at the end of their tenure as agreed with the respective landlords. The MRCCs at Forth, Brixham and Portland are Crown properties and will be sold following vacation.

The MRCC at Lee-on-Solent is provided under an agreement with the Homes and Communities Agency (formerly South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)) and will be vacated following the opening of the maritime operations centre at Kites Croft, Fareham.

Under the Coastguard Modernisation programme, the coastguard co-ordination function currently located in the MRCCs at Liverpool, Thames and Swansea will cease; these buildings will remain on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) estate to support other operational coastguard and marine office survey activity in these areas.

Capacity released at these sites will be utilised to develop and house the coastguard coastal operations hubs outlined in the "Blueprint for Future Coastguard Organisation in the UK" to provide additional management support to the volunteer coastguard rescue service.

Motorways: Garages and Petrol Stations

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the cost of fuel on motorways; and if she will ensure that drivers on motorways are made aware of the comparative cost of fuel at motorway filling stations. [84570]

Mike Penning: All motorway service areas are operated on a commercial basis by private companies and the Department for Transport has no powers to control prices charged at the sites.

There is a requirement to display prices in the service areas. Current signing regulations permit the display of fuel prices on the advanced directional signing for motorway service areas, but it is not a requirement to display prices in advance of the service area.

Railways: Accidents

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recommendations were made following the incident at Tebay on 15 February 2004 involving a runaway trolley; and what progress has been made implementing such recommendations. [82346]

Mrs Villiers: The RSSB (formally the Rail Safety and Standards Board) held an independent inquiry into the Tebay accident of 15 February 2004.

The report of this inquiry, "Track Worker Fatalities at Tebay on 15 February 2004", was published in October 2004. It contained 12 recommendations, 10 of which were directed to Network Rail with the remaining two directed to the RSSB. A summary of this report is available at:

http://www.rssb.co.uk/LEARNING/Documents/FI2884.pdf

The 10 recommendations directed to Network Rail were closed out in accordance with industry standards between 2005 and 2008. The RSSB has confirmed that all 12 recommendations have now been closed out.

Railways: Franchises

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what external consultants have advised the Government on rail franchising policy in the last 18 months; what the cost of such advice was in each instance; what regular checks were made for potential conflicts of interests; and whether any conflicts of interests were declared. [R] [83168]

Mrs Villiers: Advice is being provided by Grant Thornton on stress testing franchise bids, which has an estimated value of £33,000. Advice on a new approach to station leasing is being provided by Faithful and Gould which has an estimated value of £30,000. £129,772 has been spent to date with external lawyers developing contracts for Greater Anglia and Intercity West Coast, and this work is ongoing. Consultants are required to declare potential conflicts of interest during procurement, or that arise afterwards. The Department does not contract if a material conflict of interest exists, and consultants are required to declare any change in circumstances.

Rescue Services: Portland

Richard Drax: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will publish the analyses upon which her decision to close the search and rescue helicopter base at Portland was based. [84628]

Mike Penning: It is the intention of the Department to publish the basing analysis and assurance review which was used to determine the future basing strategy for search and rescue helicopters. I intend to make this available via the Department for Transport website and it will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Severn River Crossing: Tolls

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate she has made of the likely completion date of the Severn Crossings toll concession. [84710]

Mike Penning: The concession on the Severn Crossing will end when either the concessionaire has recovered their costs, or when 30 years have elapsed since the concession began (2022). The concessionaire is currently expected to recover their costs in 2017; but we are negotiating how certain operating costs and historic changes to the tax regime should be handled under the concession agreement.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* she, *(b)* her immediate predecessor and *(c)* other Ministers in her Department have had with Severn River Crossings plc and others on the future of the Severn Crossing following the end of the current concession. [84711]

Mike Penning: I have stated that no decisions have been taken on the future of the crossing; and Ministers have had no discussions on arrangements after the end of the concession period.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she intends to publish plans for the future of the Severn river crossing following the end of the concession period. [84970]

Mike Penning: As I stated to the Welsh Affairs Committee in May, we have made no decisions about the future of the Severn crossings. We have no plans to make any decisions on the crossings while the Welsh Government continue their study of the economic effects of tolling.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her departmental officials have had with Severn River Crossing plc and others on the future of the Severn crossing following the end of the concession agreement. [84971]

Mike Penning: Severn River Crossings plc (SRC) is a special purpose vehicle, which will cease to exist when the concession ends. We have had no substantive discussions with SRC about arrangements beyond the end of the concession period.

My officials are in regular dialogue with the Welsh Government about the Severn crossings, who have made representations about possible options after the concession. No decisions have been taken on the future of the crossings.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 610W, on Thameslink railway line: rolling stock, what management actions Interfleet took and detailed to her Department on each occasion to avoid a conflict of interest. [R] [81313]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* Interfleet have robust processes which they employ to manage potential conflicts of interest effectively. The specific arrangements are set out as follows:

(a) September 2008, Gauging clearance study work for Siemens: This work involved Interfleet checking that Siemens' "City Train" concept vehicle profile would pass along the UK rail network including the Thameslink routes. Interfleet confirmed to the Department that they did not have any staff providing Thameslink bid development support to Siemens or any other bidder in the competition. Consequently, the Department accepted that no conflict of interest would arise.

(b) January 2009, competition to appoint a Notified Body approvals contract with all the Thameslink bidders (Alstom, Bombardier, Hitachi and Siemens): Interfleet Certification Ltd (ICL) is an independent company with procedures and processes which have been set up in accordance with strict regulatory requirements to ensure their independence and impartiality and are subject to regular audit by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) on behalf of the Department. The Department required ICL to ensure that they do not involve any staff who have previously worked on, or planned to work on the Thameslink project for the Department. This confirmation was provided and the Department was, therefore, content that no conflict of interest would occur.

(c) July 2011, Gauge clearance work for Thameslink preferred bidder (Siemens): Interfleet confirmed that a team completely independent of the Department's Thameslink technical advisor team would support Siemens on this workstream and that they would have no access to or input from the technical advisor or any data obtained as a result of Interfleet's support to the Department. The Department was, therefore, content that no conflict of interest would occur.

WORK AND PENSIONS

AWE: Industrial Health and Safety

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Health and Safety Executive plans to announce its decision on what steps will be taken concerning the Atomic Weapons Establishment following the fire at the Establishment on 3 August 2010; and what the reasons are for the time taken in making this decision. [84837]

Chris Grayling: The investigation into the unfortunate event referred to, at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, has been thorough and involved detailed and extensive consideration of the incident of 3 August 2010 and the circumstances preceding it. In line with its published procedures and policies for investigation and enforcement, the HSE is currently awaiting independent legal opinion on its report into the incident before a final decision is made. I understand that this opinion is due to be delivered in early January and a decision will be made and announced soon afterwards by the HSE.

Legal Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83898]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions in-house litigation division dealt with 4,059 potential or actual claims brought against the Department since the beginning of 2007. The additional information requested such as which of the organisations bringing claims received funding from the Department and relating to the success and costs of these actions is not held on a central record. In order to be able to provide answers, it would be necessary to retrieve the majority of these files from our central storage facility which is located outside of London. Each individual file would then have to be interrogated to establish what information is held, some of these cases will be of a considerable size. I would estimate that this would take at least several weeks and would therefore be at a disproportionate cost.

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on *(a)* the recovery of legal costs from failed applicants for judicial review and *(b)* enforcement of any such recovery; and whether any exceptions apply. [83914]

Chris Grayling: Where the Department for Work and Pensions is successful in litigation it will normally seek an order that costs are payable. However many litigants are legally aided and the order would not therefore be enforced unless there is a change in financial circumstances. Where funds are potentially available the Department will make an assessment on a case by case basis as to whether securing payment will be cost-effective when the costs of enforcement are taken into account. Costs may be awarded against the Legal Services Commission in limited circumstances and are enforced where they are awarded.

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what receptions and events have been hosted by his Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by a third party. [84186]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions organises a number of events, both internal and external. These take place throughout the year and are organised by individual teams across the Department.

There is not a centrally held list of all events that have taken place so it is not possible to provide the details requested as it would be at a disproportionate cost to request and collate the information required.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [82998]

Chris Grayling: I can respond to parts of this question, regarding the number and cost of information leaflets and posters that my Department has produced since May 2010.

The Department has reduced the number of its information leaflets from 49 (in May 2010) to 39. Those remaining are leaflets we must make available to ensure individuals are informed of which benefits are available to them, and details of how to plan and claim their pension; particularly for those who are unable to access similar information on the internet. We spent a total of £328,518.08 (print) and £5,085.00 (design) since May 2010, circulating a total of 6.058 million copies to the public.

We maintain a small range of around 20 posters, mostly for use in our 750 Jobcentres. Since May 2010 we have spent £18,563.54 (print) and nothing on design (all done in-house), producing a total of 15,265 individual posters (an average 20 posters per Jobcentre).

I would note that the majority of information leaflets published have been a continuation of materials that are always in print, such as information to the public about benefit and pension entitlement. Indeed, my Department has actually reduced the cost of these with some recent publications on average 34% less expensive than their predecessors published before May 2010.

On the question about reports, my Department publishes a diverse range of reports across all of its activities; the information is not available/held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Since July 2007, the majority of the Department's design and print is covered by a single print management contract with the iON Consortium, of whom Xerox is the lead supplier.

Employment and Support Allowance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations his Department has received on the time-limiting of contributory employment and support allowance. [83390]

Chris Grayling: The proposal to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance who are placed in the work-related activity group requires primary legislation and is included in the Welfare Reform Bill which is currently being considered by Parliament.

Since this measure was announced as part of the spending review in October, both Ministers and officials have met with a number of representatives from organisations representing disabled people, such as Citizens Advice, Macmillan Cancer Support and Disability Alliance. We are continuing to receive representations from these organisations on an ongoing basis.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what alternatives to a 12-month time limit on contributory employment and support allowance were considered by his Department; and what the reasons were for not pursuing any such alternatives. [83392]

Chris Grayling: The Department considered a number of different periods, but concluded that a time limit of one year gives the best balance between allowing people in the work-related activity group with longer term conditions to adjust to their health condition and paying contribution-based employment and support allowance for an appropriate length of time.

The time limit does not apply to the most vulnerable in the support group nor the poorest on income-related employment and support allowance. It is double the length of time that people can receive contribution-based jobseeker's allowance. The Department also considered the needs of the taxpayer as well as claimants in making its decision to introduce a time limit.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the potential effects of time-limiting contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) on benefits advice services and other support organisations; and what discussions his Department has had with organisations, such as Citizens Advice, about the effects such time-limiting of contributory ESA will have on their services. [83393]

Chris Grayling: The impacts of time-limiting contributory employment and support allowance to one year for those in the Work Related Activity Group were set out in the impact assessment, available at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/esa-time-limit-wr2011-ia-revised-apr2011.pdf

The impacts on benefits advice services and other support organisations have not been quantified due to the uncertainty around take-up of these services by those affected. However, the Department has a programme of regular engagement with stakeholders such as Citizens Advice in order to help ensure that claimants receive the appropriate advice about how the changes may affect them and take any necessary action as a result.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assumptions he made about the rate of reassessment for employment and support allowance of people in receipt of incapacity benefit when calculating indicative volumes for the Work programme. [84567]

Chris Grayling: Our calculation of indicative volumes for the invitation to tender was based on the following assumptions:

around 1.5 million existing incapacity benefits customers would go through reassessment by 2014;

of these, approximately one-quarter would be expected to be assessed fit for work and move off incapacity benefits; and

the remaining three-quarters would be expected to be assessed as having a limited capability for work and move onto employment and support allowance—of these, around three-quarters would be expected to move into the Work Related Activity Group.

The actual volumes of customers referred to the Work programme will be published as Official Statistics, from spring 2012.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applicants for employment and support allowance his Department has decided should *(a)* receive the allowance in the (i) support group and (ii) work related activity group and *(b)* not receive the allowance following work capability assessments by Atos Origins which recommended that applicants (A) should and (B) should not receive the allowance. [84952]

Chris Grayling: The Department regularly publishes official statistics on employment and support allowance (ESA) and the work capability assessment. The latest report was published in October 2011 and can be found on the internet at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

Table 2 in the above publication shows statistics on completed initial assessments for ESA claims from October 2008 up to May 2011 (the latest data available). This shows that there were:

101,000 ESA Support Group decisions

253,000 ESA Work Related Activity Group decisions

575,400 Fit for Work decisions.

Of the 575,400 Fit for Work decisions, 564,800 received a Fit for Work recommendation from Atos and 600 received either a Support Group or Work Related Activity Group recommendation. There were also 10,000 clerical assessments where the Atos recommendation cannot be determined but the claimant subsequently received a Fit for Work decision from DWP.

In total there were 597,100 Atos recommendations of Fit for Work, however 32,400 of these recommendations were overturned and placed in either the Work Related Activity Group or the Support Group by DWP.

Note that all figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred and as a result may not sum to totals.

Employment Schemes

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to provide targeted support for employment in areas where the *(a)* rate of long-term unemployment increases above and *(b)* job density ratio falls below a specific threshold; and if he will make a statement. [84249]

Chris Grayling: The Department remains committed to tackling long-term unemployment wherever it is located, through its ambitious welfare reforms. The Work Programme has replaced much of the complex range of employment support previously on offer and allows private, public and voluntary partners to come together to find innovative and flexible local solutions to help people into work. Universal credit will ensure the welfare system always incentivises work and ensure that work always pays.

The Department is also modernising the way Jobcentre Plus delivers its services. A flexible delivery model enables Jobcentre Plus to deliver labour-market solutions tailored to the needs of the local labour market. The Government are seeking the active engagement of employers, partners and claimants themselves in every community in Britain to help tackle rising unemployment. These measures ensure that targeted support is already being delivered by knowledgeable staff, who understand local issues, at the 740 Jobcentres at the heart of communities.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure funds from the Youth Contract programme flow proportionally to areas with high incidences of long-term unemployment and economic inactivity. [84348]

Chris Grayling: We are currently working to design the details of the support available through the Youth Contract and will be making further information available over the coming weeks.

However, I can tell the hon. Gentleman that elements of Youth Contract support are targeted at young people who are longer-term unemployed so that more money will flow to areas where longer-term unemployment is higher. Specifically:

increased adviser time will be available from month three of a JSA claim for 18 to 24-year-olds who have not yet entered the Work programme, with weekly signing from month three.

Work experience placements are available to 18 to 24-year-olds claiming JSA from week 13 of their claim,

The wage incentive scheme will be delivered through the Work programme. This will ensure that it is targeted at long-term unemployed young people and those who face the most significant disadvantages.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the right to data in the Open Services White Paper will apply to the Work Programme; and if he will make a statement. [84569]

Chris Grayling: The Department is committed to open government and open data and is exploring the scope for new open data measures.

The Department currently expects to publish official statistics on referrals to the Work Programme from spring 2012 and job outcome figures from autumn 2012. We expect to make these publicly available by various breakdowns including age; gender; ethnicity; disability; provider; local authority; parliamentary constituency; and contract package area. However, this is dependant on the availability and quality of data from the administrative systems.

The exact details of what Work Programme official statistics we will publish will be available once we have developed more detailed requirements and are confident that the data are of sufficient quality to publish.

An information note detailing the Work Programme official statistics release strategy can be found at the following website:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=statistical_summaries

Included in the note is an invitation for feedback on the type of statistics users would like to see made available for the Work Programme.

As soon as we are confident we have reliable data we will pre-announce an exact release date via this website and on the UK Statistics Authority publication hub. Statistics will be published in the DWP quarterly statistical summary and via an internet based tabulation tool offering users bespoke breakdowns of the headline statistics.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 375W, on employment schemes, whether he has received any representations claiming that Work programme prime contractors are referring clients to volunteer centres without making payments to those centres; and if he will make a statement. [84754]

Chris Grayling: It has been brought to my attention that one or more Work programme prime contractors may have made inappropriate approaches to volunteer centres. We have made it clear to Work programme providers that, while we encourage them to forge productive relationships with local partners, they should not approach volunteer centres to supply unpaid support for their service delivery models.

Employment Schemes: Personal Records

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what personal information is passed from Jobcentre Plus to a provider when a jobseeker is referred to the Work Programme. [84566]

Chris Grayling: Personal information passed from Jobcentre Plus to a provider when a jobseeker is referred to the Work programme will vary depending on individual circumstances but will include some or all of the following:

Full name including title
National insurance number
Full address including post code
Telephone number including std code
Other telephone number (mobile)
Qualifications
Driving licence
Job preferences
Employment history
Preferred hours
Disability status—notification that the participant has informed Jobcentre Plus that they are disabled
Child care needs/arrangements.

Employment: Young People

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether voluntary and community sector organisations will be eligible to receive wage subsidies under the Youth Contract. [84568]

Chris Grayling: Sustainable paid jobs in the voluntary sector will be eligible for the wage incentive scheme. The scheme will be delivered through the Work programme and we will be talking to employers, providers and other key stakeholders, including the voluntary and the community sector, as we develop the detailed design.

Future Jobs Fund

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were placed in employment through the future jobs fund in each parliamentary constituency since October 2009. [83930]

Chris Grayling: There have been 105,230 job placements under the future jobs fund for the period October 2009 to March 2011.

A table containing the number of job starts for each parliamentary constituency has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of income received by households affected by the household benefit cap is accounted for by *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit. [83185]

Chris Grayling: Our modelling estimates that out of the households affected by the household benefit cap, the mean proportion of income accounted for by housing benefit is between 20% and 30%.

The mean proportion of household income accounted for by council tax benefit is very small, the modelling estimates that it is less than 5%.

Analysis of those affected by the benefit cap has been modelled using survey data; as such there is a degree of uncertainty around the results.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what methodology will be used to calculate future discretionary housing payment allocations in relation to the Government's planned increase. [84400]

Steve Webb: The Government's contribution towards discretionary housing payments for 2012-13 will be £60 million.

The methodology for 2012-13 constitutes two parts; £20 million has been allocated based on the midpoint between Government contribution and the actual amount spent by a local authority in 2010-11; the £40 million balance has been allocated to each local authority based on their share of the anticipated losses by housing benefit claimants as a result of the reforms to the local housing allowance.

Details of this allocation could be found in HB/CTB S10/2011 (revised)

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/s10-2011.pdf

which we sent to all local authorities to advise them of the 2012-13 discretionary housing payments allocations.

The methodology for allocating the Government's contribution towards discretionary housing payments in 2013-14 will be decided by discussions with local authorities representatives and the Department during the summer/autumn of 2012.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many 25 to 34 year olds he expects to be affected by the introduction of the single room rate in each local authority area. [84773]

Steve Webb: The requested information has been published in the equality impact assessment of the increase to the shared accommodation rate age threshold.

A copy has been placed in the Library and it is available on the DWP website at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf

Housing Benefit: Brent

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claim the shared accommodation rate of housing benefit in Brent North constituency; and what estimate he has made of the likely change in this number should the age limit increase from 25 to 35 years. [84037]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

Estimates of the number of people claiming the local housing allowance at the shared accommodation rate and the numbers affected by the increase in the age limit have been published at local authority level as part of the equality impact assessment, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

The equality impact assessment is also available on the internet at

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf

In the London borough of Brent, it is estimated that at March 2010 1,670 people received local housing allowance at the shared accommodation rate and that 710 would be affected by the age limit increase.

Housing Benefit: Private Rented Housing

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the proposed abolition of direct payment of local housing allowance to private landlords. [84941]

Steve Webb: At present, housing benefit under the local housing allowance (LHA) arrangements is paid to claimants in the majority of cases. For some claimants who are likely to run into financial difficulties, payment is made to the landlord. The Government do not plan to abolish this provision. Work is ongoing to define the details of support under universal credit, but the approach for private sector renters will build on the existing local housing allowance arrangements.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with private landlords on the proposed abolition of direct payment of local housing allowance. [84942]

Steve Webb: Departmental officials have a regular dialogue with landlord groups.

At present, housing benefit under the local housing allowance (LHA) arrangements is paid to claimants in the majority of cases. For some claimants who are likely to run into financial difficulties, payment is made to the landlord. The Government do not plan to abolish this provision.

Housing Benefit: Wales

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households claiming *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* local housing allowance in (i) Wales and (ii) each local authority in Wales have non-dependent residents living in the household. [84653]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not currently available, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does collect information on numbers of non-dependents from the housing benefit/council tax benefit data source (single housing benefit extract) but to assess the completeness of recording and quality assure the figures to answer this question would incur disproportionate cost.

Notes:

1. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed housing benefit/council tax benefit data electronically from local authorities. Over time these will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics, as the information supplied is quality assured.

2. Housing benefit caseload and average weekly amounts are available at local authority area level and these are published on the Department's website at:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbctb

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged between 25 and 35 in each local authority area in Wales in receipt of housing benefit and not currently in receipt of the shared room rate will be affected by the change of the eligibility age for shared room rate. [84706]

Steve Webb: The requested information has been published in the equality impact assessment of the increase to the shared accommodation rate age threshold.

A copy has been placed in the library and it is available on the DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.Gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in receipt of housing benefit or local housing allowance in Wales contain *(a)* one, *(b)* two or *(c)* three or more non-dependent residents earning more than £200 a week. [84940]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not currently available, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does collect information on numbers of non-dependents from the housing benefit/council tax benefit data source (the single housing benefit extract) but to assess the completeness of recording and quality assure the figures to answer this question would incur disproportionate cost.

Notes:

1. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed housing benefit/council tax benefit data electronically from local authorities. Over time these will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics, as the information supplied is quality assured.

2. Housing benefit caseload and average weekly amounts are available at local authority area level and these are published on the Department's website at:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbctb

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of housing benefit or local housing allowance also claim out-of-work benefits in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* each local authority area in Wales. [84943]

Steve Webb: The Family Resource Survey estimates that there are 100,000 benefit units in Wales, in receipt of both housing benefit and out-of-work benefits.

Estimates are based on survey data, and only allow for breakdowns to Government office region level, so information at local authority level is not available.

Notes:

1. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of UK households. Data for 2009-10 were collected between April 2009 and March 2010.

2. The figures from the Family Resources Survey are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government office region population by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.

3. Results have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 benefit units.

4. The Family Resource Survey captures information on housing benefit and local housing allowance, but does not explicitly differentiate between the two.

5. Out-of-work benefits cases have been defined as benefit units with at least one adult in receipt of one or more of the following benefits: income support, job-seeker's allowance, employment and support allowance or incapacity benefit.

6. The Family Resources Survey is known to under-record benefit receipt and so estimates should be treated with caution.

7. A benefit unit is defined as a single adult or a married or cohabiting couple and any dependent children; from January 2006 same-sex partners (civil partners and cohabitees) are included in the same benefit unit.

8. A dependent child is defined as an individual aged under 16. A person will also be defined as a child if they are 16 to 19 years old and they are:

Not married nor in a civil partnership nor living with a partner; and

living with parents; and

In full-time non-advanced education or in unwaged Government training.

Source:

The Family Resources Survey 2009-10

Income Support: Mortgages

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants receiving income-related benefit were receiving support for mortgage interest in each month of the last five years in each Jobcentre Plus budget area. [83831]

Chris Grayling: The total numbers of claimants of pension credit (PC), income support (IS) and jobseeker's allowance (JSA) receiving mortgage interest by region, from May 2007 to May 2011, are available in the Library.

Pensioners: Income

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of pensioners had a net annual income of *(a)* up to £5,200, *(b)* £5,201 to £10,400, *(c)* £10,401 to £20,800, *(d)* £20,801 to £40,000, *(e)* £40,001 to £80,000 and *(f)* over £80,000 in (i) Scotland and (ii) the UK in the latest year for which figures are available. [84266]

Steve Webb: The following table shows the percentage of pensioner units with net income in each band. Figures for Scotland are estimated by combining three years' data from 2007-08 to 2009-10. Figures for the UK are based on 2009-10 data. Reliable estimates of the percentage of pensioners receiving between £40,000 and £80,000 per year and over £80,000 per year are not possible with the data source, so the two groups have been combined.

Pensioner units with annual net income in each band

Percentage

	Up to £5,200	*£5,200 to £10,400*	*£10,400 to £20,800*	*£20,800 to £40,000*	*Over £40,000*
Scotland	3	27	48	19	4
UK	3	22	47	22	6

Notes:

1. Net income before housing costs is gross income less income tax payments, national insurance contributions, contributions to occupational and private pension schemes, local taxes, maintenance and child support payments, and parental contributions to children living away from home.
2. Based on survey data and as such subject to a degree of sampling and non sampling error.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest 1%. Figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
4. Due to the small sample sizes involved in estimates below a national level, three years' data have been combined and the income band has been deflated to the appropriate year's prices.
5. A pensioner unit is either a single person over pension age or a couple in which at least one person is over pension age.

Source:

Family Resources Survey.

Personal Independence Payment: Multiple Sclerosis

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure that people with *(a)* multiple sclerosis and *(b)* other long-term degenerative conditions are not required to take part in a face-to-face assessment for personal

independence payment where sufficient evidence is available to qualify them for the benefit without the need for an assessment that is face-to-face. [82985]

Maria Miller: The assessment for personal independence payment will be carried out by a trained, independent health professional. It will involve consideration of written evidence from the claimant and from relevant people involved in supporting them—such as their GP, hospital consultant or social worker. In most cases, we also expect the claim process to involve a face-to-face consultation between the claimant and the health professional, providing an opportunity to explore in detail the impact of their impairment on their everyday life.

While we believe that face-to-face consultations will be an important part of the process, we have made very clear that we intend to deliver this policy in a sensitive and proportionate way. For example, where we already have enough written evidence on which to make an accurate assessment, it would be inappropriate—and a waste of public money—to require individuals to attend a consultation. Individuals with long-term degenerative conditions are particularly likely to have such evidence available to support their claim.

We do believe that decisions on whether a consultation is appropriate should be made on a case-by-case basis—not based simply on the claimant's impairment type. This reflects the more personalised approach inherent to the new benefit. The only exception to this is for people claiming under the terminal illness provisions, who will not be required to attend a face-to-face consultation as part of their claim.

We are still developing the claims and assessment processes for personal independence payment and we will continue to work with disabled people and their organisations as we do so.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84185]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) uses postcodes in a variety of ways: for work allocation; contacting customers; research; matching records; and providing specific local payments. Specific examples include:

the administration of the Cold Weather Payment Scheme;

to draw samples for inclusion in research studies and to contact people regarding involvement in research initiatives;

to allocate work from specific areas to the right Pensions Processing Centre;

to automatically route state pension and pension credit telephone enquiries from the national number, to the appropriate pension centre;

Direct mailing initiatives, for example regarding benefit take-up;

identifying areas where there are high volumes of vulnerable customers such as customers with disabilities, vulnerable pensioner groups etc.;

to investigate benefit and tax credit claims in a specific high fraud risk area, in order to uncover fraudulent claims.

Social Security Benefits: Durham

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who will cease to receive *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* all benefits in North West Durham constituency as a consequence of his proposed changes to the benefits system. [84008]

Chris Grayling: No such estimate has been made.

The impacts of the proposed changes to the benefit system as set out in the Welfare Reform Bill are available in the associated impact assessments at the following link.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare%2Dreform/legislation%2Dand%2Dkey%2Ddocuments/welfare%2Dreform%2Dbill%2D2011/impact%2Dassessments%2Dand%2Dequality/

The impacts of these proposals have been calculated at an aggregate, Great Britain, level and cannot be reliably broken down for smaller geographical areas.

The main forthcoming change to incapacity benefits is the proposal to time limit contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) to one year for those in the Work Related Activity Group. This is expected to affect around 700,000 people by 2015-16, of which around 60% are expected to be fully or partially compensated by income-related ESA, so will retain entitlement to ESA.

The remaining 40% are not expected to qualify for income-related ESA because they have other income, including that from a partner. These people will no longer receive ESA benefit payments, but will be able to retain national insurance credits by becoming an ESA credits-only claimant. They may also see increases in other benefits such as tax credits and housing benefit.

Social Security Benefits: Expenditure

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total expenditure was on welfare benefits excluding pensions, in each parliamentary constituency in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [84874]

Chris Grayling: The available information for 2010-11 has been placed in the Library.

Benefit expenditure by parliamentary constituency is available only for the following benefits:

attendance allowance;
bereavement benefits;
carer's allowance;
disability living allowance;
incapacity benefit;
severe disablement allowance;
income support;
jobseeker's allowance;
pension credit;
state pension;
winter fuel payments; and
employment and support allowance.

Benefit expenditure by parliamentary constituency can be found using the following URL:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/PC_expenditure.xls

Social Security Benefits: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of families in Peterborough constituency who will be affected by the proposed benefit cap from April 2013; and if he will make a statement. [84631]

Chris Grayling: We published an impact assessment for the introduction of the benefit cap on 16 February 2011. It can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/household-benefit-cap-wr2011-ia.pdf

It estimates that, if the benefit cap were applied in full, around 50,000 households in Great Britain would have their benefits reduced by the policy. Sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for areas smaller than the overall impacts for Great Britain.

Unemployment: Ex-servicemen

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of former armed forces personnel who are *(a)* unemployed and *(b)* long-term unemployed; [83540]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average length of time it takes an individual to find work after leaving the armed forces. [83541]

Maria Miller: The Department for Work and Pensions does not routinely record whether benefit claimants are former armed forces personnel. We are looking into ways of improving knowledge on the employment and benefit outcomes of ex-service personnel.

Universal Credit

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on its proposals on the universal credit to date. [83925]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has spent £41.2 million to date on the proposed delivery of universal credit; (£3.4 million in 2010-11 and £37.8 million in 2011-12 to the end of October).

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with local authorities on delivery of the universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [84565]

Chris Grayling: We are engaged with local authority staff at all levels. Local authorities are a key partner and we need to utilise their expertise, skills and success in order to design a modern welfare system that makes the most of the best of national and local services and delivers them from the most appropriate place.

There is a local authority chief executive represented on the Universal Credit Programme Board; the Local Government Association (LGA), Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) are represented on the Universal Credit Senior Stakeholder Board, Universal Credit Transition Working Group, the Finance and Commercial Working Group and the Local Authority Associations Steering Group. We also have seconded staff to key positions from many local authorities.

We have also commenced a programme of visits to give individual local authorities an opportunity to feed directly into the UC programme as well as UC programme staff an opportunity to see the reality on the ground for local authorities.

Additionally, the Minister with responsibility for welfare reform, Lord Freud, has met with representatives from both the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers, and the Local Government Association at which universal credit was discussed. Ministers will continue to engage with these local authority groups in the lead up to universal credit delivery.

Winter Fuel Payments

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider increasing the level of winter fuel payments over the next four years for pensioners over the age of 80. [84955]

Steve Webb: Decisions on the rate of winter fuel payments for future winters are generally made as part of the annual Budget cycle.

Winter Fuel Payments: Newport East

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in winter fuel payments to residents of Newport East constituency in 2010-11; and how much he expects to be paid to such recipients in 2011-12. [84760]

Steve Webb: The amount of winter fuel payments made to residents of Newport East constituency in 2010-11 was £3.3 million.

The number of people receiving winter fuel payments is expected to reduce slightly each winter due to the rise in the qualifying age linked to women's state pension age. However we expect the numbers to be broadly similar in winter 2011-12.

If the Newport East share of the total Great Britain expenditure in 2010-11 was maintained in 2011-12, the projected expenditure would be approximately £2.6 million.

Further published benefit expenditure tables can be found at the following address:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

Source:

DWP statistical and Accounting Data.

Work Capability Assessment

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the potential effects of work capability assessment decisions on the level of unemployment since May 2010. [82922]

Chris Grayling: It is not possible to estimate the effects of the work capability assessment decisions on the level of unemployment.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 569-70W, on work capability assessment, how many reassessments of incapacity benefit claimants have resulted in a recommendation to his Department that the claimant *(a)* should not receive employment and support allowance (ESA) or *(b)* should receive ESA in the (i) support group or (ii) work related activity group; and in how many such reassessments his Department's decision was different to the original Atos decision. [84951]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available. Information on the number of work capability assessments (WCAs) completed can be provided using the Department's management information system, but to know the outcomes of the WCAs and the variation from the Atos recommendation requires individual level data.

Due to the overall length of the incapacity benefits reassessment process, information on the entire process including the final outcomes and subsequent destinations of claimants being reassessed is not yet available. Individual level data are being collected, but it will take time to complete because of the overall length of the reassessment process. The Department plans to publish data on the outcomes of the reassessment process, but only once they have been quality assured and are considered robust.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85051]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The information is not held in the format requested.

Of the 20 questions tabled to me for answer on a named day between 1 June and 30 November 2011, 19 were answered substantively on the specified date.

Duchy of Cornwall

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the Duchy of Cornwall is an Office of State. [85022]

Mr Harper: The Duchy of Cornwall is a private estate that funds the public, charitable and private activities of the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry.

EDUCATION

Academies: Private Finance Initiative

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what reports he has received of planned academy schools not going ahead due to difficulties with private finance initiative arrangements; which schools have been affected; when he expects to resolve this issue; and when he expects the planned academies to go ahead. [75334]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* A number of banks which finance PFI contracts have raised concerns as to whether local authorities have the legal power to make payments in relation to PFI academies. They are withholding their consent to PFI schools becoming academies until these concerns are resolved beyond doubt.

At the same time, a number of banks have been happy to proceed and a number of schools with PFI contracts have successfully converted to become academies. 16 schools have been affected while 24 have converted to become academies.

Local authorities do currently have the power to make these contractual payments on academies' behalf. However, we recognised the demand for this to be clarified more explicitly, which is why we have now amended the Academies Act 2010 accordingly. We hope and expect that the affected schools will now be able to proceed with their applications to convert to academy status.

Academies: Redditch

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the effect of academies on educational *(a)* equalities and *(b)* attainment in Redditch. [83023]

Mr Gibb: We believe that teachers and head teachers know best how to run schools. Academies give them the freedoms and flexibilities to help drive up standards, narrow the gap in educational attainment and ensure that all pupils are equally able to fulfil their potential.

There are no results available for the one academy in Redditch, Trinity High School, as the school converted to academy status in August 2011.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the need to provide concessionary bus fares for 16 to 18-year-olds following the raising of the participation age. [82338]

Mr Gibb: Under our proposals to raise the participation age, 16 to 18-year-olds will have a duty to participate, but not necessarily in full-time education. Young people aged 16 to 18 will still be able to leave school and will have a range of options they can take and many young people will also undertake part-time work while they are studying.

Transport represents one of the main costs associated with participation post-16. That is why the £180 million 16-19 Bursary Fund introduced from September 2011, will have the flexibility to help meet transport costs for individual students.

This sits alongside the duty on local authorities to publish a statement each year that sets out the travel arrangements they consider necessary to enable young people of sixth form age to attend post-16 education.

Child Protection

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the publication by the National Deaf Children's Society entitled Social

care for deaf children and young people: a guide to assessment and child protection investigations for social care practitioners; and whether his Department has any plans to *(a)* promote and *(b)* disseminate the guide and associated audit tool. [82530]

Tim Loughton: The guide was considered by the Munro Review and highlighted as an example of good practice in meeting particular needs. It is for the National Deaf Children's Society and not Government to promote and disseminate the guide and associated audit tool further.

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he last had contact with the Local Safeguarding Children Board in Birmingham on arrangements for deaf children; and if he will review the existing arrangements. [82531]

Tim Loughton: Ministers have not had contact with the Local Safeguarding Children Board in Birmingham on this issue recently. The Local Safeguarding Children Board, rather than Government, is best placed to decide priorities in that locality.

Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83795]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education's and its public bodies' caterers must comply with Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering. The Department ensures through its contract management process that updates are received quarterly with regard to the compliance with the standards.

Education: Romford

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department has provided to *(a)* (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools and *(b)* sixth forms and colleges in Romford constituency in 2010-11. [83144]

Mr Gibb: Figures are not available for the parliamentary constituency of Romford as data are collected at a local authority level. The Department funds local authorities for their pupils and not individual maintained schools. The total funding provided by the Department for Education in the London borough of Havering in 2010-11 is shown in the following table:

	£ million
Dedicated Schools Grant, other schools grant and academy funding	185,066,875
Schools sixth forms and colleges	37,358,053

Employment: Young People

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make an assessment of *(a)* the teaching of basic skills in schools in improving the employability of school leavers and *(b)* the findings of the British Chambers of Commerce's Skills Report on the confidence of businesses in recruiting school-leavers with A-levels. [83701]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to improving the employability of school leavers. In her report on vocational education, Professor Wolf found that achievement in English and maths is fundamental to future employment. We are currently implementing Professor Wolf's recommendations to improve the vocational offer for 14 to 19-year-olds by ensuring that more young people achieve at least grade C in English and maths GCSE by the age of 19. We have also introduced the English baccalaureate to encourage young people to study English and maths and those GCSE subjects which are most likely to help them progress to further study or employment.

The British Chambers of Commerce report points to a lack of confidence among many businesses in recruiting a school leaver with A levels. The Government are totally committed to ensuring that A levels are robust, rigorous and relevant—to match the best education systems in the world and to keep pace with businesses' and universities' demands. We are working with Ofqual on implementing our commitment, set out in "The Importance of Teaching—The Schools White Paper 2010", to establish a stronger role for higher education (HE) and learned bodies in the design of A levels.

Free Schools

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many civil servants in his Department are employed to work on free schools policy. [83475]

Mr Gibb: As at 24 November 2011, there are around 100 civil servants in the Department's Free School Group employed on policy and implementation work in connection with free schools, and about a further 20 involved with university technical colleges and studio schools.

Further Education: Finance

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the total funding is for 16 to 18 education *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita in (i) Birmingham, (ii) Newcastle, (iii) Wakefield, (iv) Manchester, (v) Leeds, (vi) Liverpool, (vii) Coventry, (viii) Bristol, (ix) Sheffield, (x) Bradford, (xi) Leicester and (xii) Nottingham in each of the next five years. [82766]

Mr Gibb: The most recent Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) grant letter for 2011-12 sets out the total budget for the YPLA this financial year[1]. The total budget for 16 to 19 education and training places in the financial year 2011-12 is over £7.5 billion. It is not possible to split out the funding for 2011-12 on a city basis because funding is predominantly allocated directly to 16 to 19 providers rather than via local authorities or regional/city bodies. The 16 to 19 funding allocations to individual providers (excluding 16 to 18 apprenticeships) are available on the YPLA website, however, at the following web address:

http://www.ypla.gov.uk/aboutus/ourwork/funding/allocations/

Details on the indicative funding for 16 to 19 participation in education and training beyond 2011-12 are not yet agreed.

[1] http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/ypla/ypla-Revisions_to_the_2011-2012_Grant_Letter-le-sep11-v1.pdf

Higher Education: Admissions

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average UCAS points score of first year undergraduate students was in each of the last 10 years. [81246]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

The latest information is given in the following table and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Final figures for 2011 have not yet been released.

Average UCAS tariff points score of UK domiciled accepted applicants 2002 to 2010[1]

Year of entry[2]	*Average score*[3]
2002	284.9
2003	296.2
2004	304.8
2005	306.6
2006	312.8
2007	315.1
2008	312.3
2009	314.3
2010	323.6

[1] The UCAS Tariff was first introduced in the 2002 application cycle.

[2] Includes applicants who applied in each of these years for deferred entry in the following year.

[3] The Tariff has only been reported for applicants domiciled in the UK, and excludes those with a tariff score of 0, or where the tariff score is not known. The scores cover only those qualifications notified to UCAS via the Awarding Body Link (ABL). Results available through the ABL arrangements cover a variety, but often limited number, of examination sittings depending upon the qualifications and the awarding body concerned—in many instances results are restricted to the most recent summer sittings (although GCE A levels cover qualifications sat in the last 18 months and SQA for a much longer period). Those qualifications that were not part of ABL arrangements, or those where the data upon which the qualification sat fell outside of the ABL arrangements, or where qualifications for which qualifications could not be analysed e.g. BTEC, have not been reported.

School Meals: Standards

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has plans to bring forward proposals to repeal or amend the provisions of the Education (Nutritional Standards for School Lunches) (England) Regulations 2006. [81134]

Sarah Teather: The School Food Regulations 2006 came into force in September 2006. The Department has no plans to repeal the regulations, as our policy is to increase the take-up of healthy school lunches. We are currently considering whether the regulations need updating, for example to keep in line with the guidelines of the Statutory Advisory Committee on Nutrition.

Schools: Admissions

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many representations he has received on shortages of *(a)* primary school places and *(b)* secondary school places in Lambeth in the last 12 months. [83852]

Mr Gibb: On 10 November 2011, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), received a delegation led by local Members of Parliament and senior officers from Lambeth and Southwark borough councils to discuss primary school place issues. The Department has also received written representations from Lambeth council about the methodology used to allocate the additional £500 million basic need funding. Discussions with Lambeth council officers continue, but the allocation of funding announced on 3 November 2011 was made in an equitable manner, based on 2011 schools capacity data and 2013/14 pupil forecast numbers provided by the local authority.

Schools: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many demountable classrooms there were in Colchester constituency in *(a)* May 1997 and *(b)* May 2010. [84741]

Mr Gibb: Information is not held centrally on numbers of demountable classrooms in Colchester in 1997 and 2010.

Special Educational Needs

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to review the level of special educational needs (SEN) funding allocated to academies within the remit of local authorities that already undertake a SEN audit. [82603]

Mr Gibb: Funding for pupils with high cost special educational needs (SEN) is the responsibility of local authorities. Specific arrangements vary from local authority to local authority.

The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) has recently consulted on wide-ranging reforms to school and academy funding, which include proposals relating to high cost pupils. The results of this consultation and further consultation on detailed future proposals will be announced in due course.

University Technical Colleges

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made on the potential effect of university technical colleges on the development of *(a)* green energy and *(b)* other emerging markets. [82875]

Mr Gibb: The development of university technical colleges (UTCs) provides the opportunity for universities and employers to establish new schools specialising in technical education to meet economic and skills needs. These may well include green technologies and other emerging priority areas which are important to economic growth both locally and nationally.

There are 17 UTC projects in the pre-opening phase. They have a variety of specialisms including the Bristol and South Gloucestershire UTC specialising in engineering and environment technologies, the Daventry UTC specialising in new technologies which include environmental sustainability and sustainable construction,

the Nottingham UTC specialising in advanced manufacturing and low carbon technologies, and the Wigan UTC specialising in manufacturing engineering and green energy and environment technologies.

We are committed to at least 24 UTCs before the end of the Parliament. These will help ensure that more school leavers each year have had a high quality technical education enabling them to go on to higher or further education, employment or an apprenticeship, while addressing the needs of employment and the economy.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Stephen Crouch

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* senior officials of his Department have had with Stephen Crouch since May 2010. [84702]

Mr Duncan: Details of all Ministers external meetings are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Our-organisation1/Ministers/

and are published every quarter in the normal way.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Civil Partnerships: Ceremonies

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rhondda (Chris Bryant) of 15 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 1180, on civil partnership ceremonies, which organisations have registered their *(a)* support for and *(b)* opposition to legal reform to permit homosexual marriage; and if she will make a statement. [84168]

Lynne Featherstone: We announced on 17 September 2011 our intention to publish a formal consultation on equal civil marriage in March 2012. This would allow us to make any legislative changes before the end of this Parliament.

From now until the publication of the consultation we will be meeting with a wide range of people with an interest in this issue, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups and religious and non-religious organisations to help shape the formal consultation document. These discussions have been held on a confidential basis and we have not asked organisations to register their support or opposition for this policy. When the consultation opens in March 2012, we will welcome comments from a wide range of organisations and individuals.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Grimsby

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Attorney-General what estimate he has made of the redundancy costs resulting from the closure of the Grimsby office of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS); what the financial saving to the CPS will be; and what his estimate is of the travel costs of CPS staff coming from Hull to handle cases in Grimsby as a result of the closure of the CPS Grimsby office. [84251]

The Attorney-General: No staff were made redundant following the closure of the Grimsby office of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). However, local managers took the decision to give preference, under the voluntary exit scheme, to those based in Grimsby who did not wish to move to the Hull office. The principal financial saving will be approximately £150,000 in rent and associated building costs. This figure will be offset by travel assistance given to relocated staff for the first three years. There is no extra cost in staff travelling to Grimsby from Hull, as managers have agreed to deploy those staff living near the court who will travel there from home.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Attorney-General how many staff of Grimsby Crown Prosecution Service Unit have *(a)* transferred to Hull Crown Prosecution Service and *(b)* taken redundancy under the voluntary exit scheme following the closure of the Grimsby unit. [84339]

The Attorney-General: Of the staff previously based at the Grimsby office, 22 are now based at Hull. One works from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) office based at Lincoln at his own request. Three are working from offices within the courts at Grimsby and 15 took advantage of the voluntary exit scheme.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Attorney-General what consultations his Department had with *(a)* police in South Humberside, *(b)* North East Lincolnshire Council, *(c)* hon. Members representing constituencies near Grimsby and *(d)* Grimsby and District Law Society before the decision was made to close the Grimsby Office of the Crown Prosecution Service. [84340]

The Attorney-General: The decision to close the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) office at Grimsby was taken after it became apparent that the primary lease holders were leaving, and it would not be possible to stay in that building. The CPS consulted with the police and the courts as key partners.

On the basis that the decision to close the Grimsby office was an operational matter for the Service, wider consultation was not considered.

Crown Prosecution Service: ICT

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Attorney-General what funding the Crown Prosecution Service has allocated to the introduction of tablet devices as part of its Transforming Through Technology programme. [84320]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is conducting commercial discussions with a view to introducing tablet devices as part of its Transforming Through Technology (T3) programme. No funding has yet been allocated while the commercial discussions continue.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Attorney-General whether the tablet devices being introduced by the Crown Prosecution Service as part of its Transforming Through Technology programme have been subject to a health and safety assessment. [84321]

The Attorney-General: The tablet devices that are being introduced as part of the Transformation Through Technology (T3) programme are covered by the Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992. Those CPS staff who use the new devices will be advised to undertake a display screen equipment self-assessment. These assessments should cover the use of the tablet device in all locations and with all software applications. Following the assessments, should staff require adaptations or additional equipment this will be provided on an individual basis.

In addition to the display screen equipment self-assessments, local health and safety managers will be updating workplace risk assessments which will include the use of tablet devices in CPS offices, court rooms, and other sites as necessary. Local health and safety managers will also be updating manual handling risk assessments which will include the movement of tablet devices and any peripheral equipment by CPS staff.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Attorney-General what the weight is of the tablet devices being introduced by the Crown Prosecution Service as part of its Transforming Through Technology programme; and whether lecterns will be required in courtrooms to enable their use. [84322]

The Attorney-General: The tablet-style device weighs 1.8 kg.

As part of the deployment of the tablet-style devices, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will not routinely be equipping courtrooms with lecterns. The Department has sourced various styles of lectern for use with tablet devices if they should be needed. These will be trialled as part of the tablet deployment programme.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Attorney-General what estimate he has made of the proportion of the Crown Prosecution Service's planned budgetary savings from *(a)* voluntary staff redundancies and *(b)* the Transforming Through Technology programme. [84323]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) estimates that voluntary staff redundancies will account for 15% of the planned budgetary savings in the current spending review period.

The CPS estimates that the Transforming Through Technology programme will account for 13.5% of the planned budgetary savings in the current spending review period.

Departmental ICT

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Attorney-General what assessment his Department has made of how long the tablet devices being introduced as part of the Transforming Through Technology programme will be in service. [84319]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is currently introducing the use of tablet devices as part of its prosecution of cases. The tablet devices currently being used in trials will be used until at least 2015. The length of time that a particular device may stay in service will be examined as part of the trials that are being conducted in December 2011 and January 2012 prior to wider roll-out in February and March 2012.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received from the retail and drinks industry on the introduction of a minimum unit price for alcohol. [84380]

Anne Milton: The Home Office has lead responsibility within Government for alcohol pricing issues. In the last three months, the Department of Health's alcohol policy team has received two representations from the retail and drinks industry on the introduction of a minimum unit price for alcohol.

A search of the Department's ministerial correspondence database has not identified any correspondence received since 1 September 2011 from the retail and drinks industry about the introduction of a minimum unit price for alcohol.

Antibiotics

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of viable new antibiotics in development or testing; and what recent assessment he has made of the development pipeline for antibiotics. [84281]

Mr Simon Burns: Currently there are two new agents in development with the potential to act against the difficult to treat multi-resistant Gram negative bacteria[1].

We are actively encouraging further drug development and pressing for greater research collaboration at an international level as recommended in the new European strategic action plan[2].

[1] European Medicines Agency/European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control: Joint technical report: the bacterial challenge—time to act.

www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en_GB/document_library/Report/2009/11/WC500008770.pdf

[2] Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council Action plan against the rising threats from Antimicrobial Resistance (COM (2011) 748).

Cancer: Drugs

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in each primary care trust area have received NHS medication through the Cancer Drugs Fund since its creation. [84344]

Mr Simon Burns: Information at primary care trust level is not collected centrally.

The Cancer Drugs Fund was launched on 1 April 2011 to help thousands of cancer patients access the drugs their clinicians believe will help them. We made an additional £50 million available to strategic health authorities (SHAs) in 2010-11 to support improved access to cancer drugs.

Since 1 October 2010, this funding has helped over 7,500 cancer patients in England to access the cancer drugs their clinicians recommended.

Information on the number of patients who received treatment in each SHA under the interim cancer drugs funding arrangements in 2010-11 (from October 2010 to March 2011) and under the Cancer Drugs Fund in 2011-12 (to September 2011) is shown in the following table.

	Number of patients[1]	
SHA	*2010-11 (October to March)*	*2011-12 (April to September)*
North East	420	340
North West	266	501
Yorkshire and Humber	178	374
East Midlands	178	448
West Midlands	292	771
East of England	246	360
London	443	553
South East Coast	306	498
South Central	290	360
South West	161	611
Total	2,780	4,816

[1] Some individual patients may be double counted where a patient has received more than one drug treatment.

Source:
Information supplied to the Department of Health by SHAs

Capita

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each such contract. [83924]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has awarded 194 contracts to Capita and its related organisations since May 2010.

The following table shows the number of contracts and monetary value.

Supplier name	*Number of purchase orders*	*Purchase order value (£)*
Capita Business Services Ltd	11	428,578.08
Capita Health Solutions Colchester	13	3,571.96
Capita Resourcing Ltd	122	2,519,192.86
Capita Secure Information Systems Ltd	1	2,500.00
Capita SHG Resourcing	13	790,916.60
Capita Symonds Ltd	34	317,554.37
Grand total	194	4,062,313.87

Note:
A Purchase order represents an individual contract with Capita.

Children: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding in total *(a)* was paid in 2010-11 and *(b)* will be paid in 2011-12 to (i) the Family Planning Association, (ii) After Adoption Yorkshire, (iii) the National Children's Bureau, (iv) UK Youth, (v) Youthnet, (vi) the Children's Society and (vii) the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; and if he will make a statement. [84755]

Anne Milton: The Department can confirm that funding was allocated to the named organisations as follows:

		£
Recipient organisations	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Family Planning Association	1,685,375	1,721,200
After Adoption Yorkshire	150,000	36,427
National Children's Bureau	459,950	469,611
UK Youth	103,410	71,130
Children's Society	239,995	215,000
Youthnet	364,049	169,965
NSPCC	0	53,918
Total	3,002,779	2,737,251

It should be noted that funding for 2011-12 represents the latest allocations and additional funding could be allocated in the remaining months of the financial year.

Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the most recent meeting took place of the executive of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence; and what matters were discussed at that meeting. [84633]

Anne Milton: The most recent meeting of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence was on 15 November 2011.

Discussions at that meeting covered performance, financial, legislative and strategic matters.

Minutes of the meeting are not yet published. Minutes of previous meetings are available on the council's website at:

www.chre.org.uk/council/59/

Death Certificates

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what impact assessment his Department has undertaken of the proposed transfer of responsibility

for the certification of deaths from primary care trusts to upper tier local authorities; [84692]

(2) if he will make it his policy to evaluate pilots of proposed responsibilities for certification of deaths before proceeding with the transfer of such responsibilities to upper tier local authorities; [84693]

(3) what public consultation he is undertaking on the proposed transfer of responsibility for certifying deaths. [84694]

Anne Milton: The transfer of responsibilities from primary care trusts to local authorities for appointing medical examiners and related activities for death certification was agreed with the Department for Communities and Local Government alongside the transfer of wider responsibilities for public health. Local authorities already manage the coroners and registration services, both of which will require collaborative working with the new medical examiner services.

The Department of Health is working with local government organisations to ensure that the new service is sustainably resourced. There will be full consultation on the new arrangements in spring 2012.

Dementia: Research

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on research on the *(a)* causes and *(b)* treatment of dementia since 2010. [84085]

Paul Burstow: Dementia is a research priority for the Government. Through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Policy Research Programme, the Department funds a wide range of research on dementia including research on causes, diagnosis, treatment, and organisation and delivery of health and social care services. The Department's expenditure on dementia research increased from £12.7 million in 2009-10 to £18.6 million in 2010-11. Expenditure specifically on causes and treatment cannot be disaggregated from these figures.

The NIHR has issued a themed call on dementia. This call extends across the translational pathway, covering the fields of cause, cure and care, including prevention. In addition, four new NIHR biomedical research units in dementia will receive a total of £18 million over five years from April 2012.

Advisory Services

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contribution his Department has made to the cross-Government review of advice funding announced in July 2011. [84338]

Paul Burstow: The Government announced on 21 November 2011 that the Cabinet Office would be conducting a review of the free advice service sector to ensure that people continue to have access to good quality free advice services in their communities.

Work has now started on the review which will conclude early next year with recommendations to Ministers.

The review will build on work that has already been done across Government on funding issues facing the not-for-profit advice sector.

The review is considering the funding environment for free advice services, likely levels of demand, and how Government can play a positive role.

The review will be led by Cabinet Office who will be involving other Departments with an interest in free advice services. The Department of Health is keen to ensure that people continue to have access to good quality free advice in their communities and will therefore play an active role in the review.

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84190]

Mr Simon Burns: An organogram for the Department's communications staff is available at:

http://data.gov.uk/organogram/department-of-health

Current figures were collated in March 2011. Updated figures from September 2011 will be published imminently.

Staffing figures for the Department's agency and non-departmental public bodies are included in the following table:

Communications	*Figures (whole time equivalent) as at:*	*(a) Press officers*	*(b) Internal communications officers*	*(c) External communications officers*	*(d) Communications strategy officers*
Alcohol Education and Research Council	30 September 2011	0	0	0	0
Appointments Commission	30 September 2011	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Care Quality Commission	30 September 2011	8	3	16.5	0
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	30 September 2011	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
General Social Care Council	30 September 2011	1	0.5	2.5	2
Health Protection Agency	30 September 2011	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	31 January 2011	1	0	3	1
Human Tissue Authority[4] (HTA)	30 September 2011	1	1	1	1

Communications	Figures (whole time equivalent) as at:	(a) Press officers	(b) Internal communications officers	(c) External communications officers	(d) Communications strategy officers
Monitor	29 November 2011	2	1.5	3.5	1
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency[5]	29 November 2011	3	1	0	1

[1] Appointments Commission has one post holder who undertakes all Communications activity and it is not possible to determine the split between the roles *(a)* to *(d)*
[2] Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence has one post holder who undertakes all Communications activity and it is not possible to determine the split between the roles *(a)* to *(d)*
[3] Health Protection Agency has a total of 29 staff who work across all these disciplines. (Of these, 19 staff are locally embedded across the country; six are sited at Colindale; two at Chilton; one at Porton; and one at head office).
[4] The HTA has a communications team of four people who are generalists.
[5] Denotes executive agency.

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases; [83889]

(2) what his policy is on *(a)* the recovery of legal costs from failed applicants for judicial review and *(b)* enforcement of any such recovery; and whether any exceptions apply. [83912]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department dealt with 137 potential or actual judicial review claims brought against it in the last five years. The additional information requested such as which of these organisations has received any funding from the Department and the success of these actions is not held on a central record. To provide this information would involve examining open files and recalling closed files from storage. This could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's policy on recovery of legal costs follows that of the Treasury Solicitor's Department. The Department will always seek an order for costs when successful in litigation, provided that it is both legally possible and appropriate in the circumstances. However, as many litigants are legally aided, an order is not pursued unless there is a change in financial circumstances.

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what receptions and events have been hosted by his Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by a third party. [84189]

Mr Simon Burns: Since May 2010, the Department has held 25 receptions and events have been held; 19 in Skipton house and six in Richmond house, including Remembrance Sunday in both 2010 and 2011. Four have been sponsored by third parties.

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any senior staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85077]

Mr Simon Burns: No civil servants in the Department, employed either on permanent or fixed-term contracts are paid by means of payments to limited companies. Similarly, no senior staff of the Department's Executive agency, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, or its other non-departmental public bodies are paid in this manner.

It is not the Department's policy to permit payments to civil servants by way of limited companies.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84234]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's central procurement database does hold information on expenditure with external suppliers. However, it does not have a category for outsourced services. To obtain this information we would need to contact each business area and directorate in the Department requiring them to check their records to obtain information about the services that were previously performed internally, but then have been outsourced. This undertaking would amount to a substantial effort across the Department and could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

Regulations

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what regulations his Department introduced in each financial year between 1997-98 and 2009-10; and what the estimated cost of implementation was in each case. [84361]

Mr Simon Burns: The analysis of central records required in order to provide the information requested could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

Health Services: Males

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure cardiovascular disease in men is diagnosed as early as possible; [84285]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that type 2 diabetes in men is diagnosed as early as possible. [84286]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Health Check programme is a national public health programme for people in

England aged 40-74. The purpose of the programme is to identify an individual's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes, and for that risk to be managed through appropriate follow up.

The programme is aimed at tackling inequalities, including inequalities in gender. Primary care trusts are, therefore, commissioning programmes which aim to reach those who are not in touch with formal healthcare, including programmes to increase the take up of the NHS Health Check among men.

In addition, there are a number of strands of work to ensure cardiovascular disease and diabetes are recognised and treated early in all patients, including:

Raising awareness of the symptoms of stroke through the Act FAST campaign so that people get to hospital quicker and receive life saving treatment.

Use of statins (cholesterol lowering drugs). Around 6-8 million people are receiving statins, saving an estimated 10,000 lives every year. These are now also available over the counter rather than solely by prescription enabling more people to benefit.

Tackling atrial fibrillation (AF). NHS Improvement is working with general practitioners (GPs) to ensure a systematic approach to the identification, diagnosis and optimal management of patients with AF; developing clear guidelines on anticoagulation to ensure that patients who have AF are appropriately anticoagulated, and continuing to promote opportunistic, screening for AF with the Atrial Fibrillation Association and the Stroke Association.

The guidelines and algorithm published by NHS Diabetes and the Royal College of GPs in March 2011 will help GPs diagnose diabetes accurately for every patient. The new audit tools that have also been developed will help GPs to share information and look at similar cases to help to resolve even the most difficult of cases.

GP training includes acquiring competence in recognising and managing appropriate aspects of diabetes.

Health Services: Sexual Offences

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the provision of health services to victims of sexual crime in the West Midlands. [84088]

Anne Milton: In 2010-11, the Home Office and the Department jointly funded the development of a health needs assessment of sexual violence in the West Midlands Police Force area and awarded grants to improve forensic medical services at the Rowan centres in Castle Vale and Walsall. The health needs assessment is complete and local partners are considering how best to develop sexual assault referral services to meet needs.

Health: Children

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill on *(a)* patient safety and *(b)* safeguarding children in London. [84546]

Mr Simon Burns: Clause 20 of the Health and Social Care Bill inserts section 13Q into the National Health Service Act 2006 and is intended to give the NHS Commissioning Board responsibility for the functions currently carried out by the National Patient Safety Agency in respect of reporting and learning from patient safety incidents. The intention is to ensure that patient safety is embedded into the health service through commissioning and the contracts commissioners agree with providers.

The NHS Commissioning Board will be uniquely placed in the system to utilise the information gathered by the reporting and learning function to support, encourage and enable safety improvement in the NHS. It will be able to combine insight from safety reporting with operational knowledge, leadership, authority and system oversight, to ensure appropriate levers, initiatives and support are provided to the NHS to improve safety.

It is essential that current safeguarding responsibilities are sustained and taken over by new organisations such as clinical commissioning groups. NHS bodies have a statutory duty to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and are statutory members of Local Safeguarding Children Boards. These duties will transfer to the new organisations under the Health and Social Care Bill.

In response to a recommendation in Professor Eileen Munro's review of child protection, the Department of Health and the Department for Education published on 31 October a work programme, co-produced with key partners, to ensure that effective arrangements to safeguard children are central to the health reforms.

As part of that programme, work is in hand to develop an accountability framework for the NHS contribution to safeguarding children, setting out more detail on the proposed new arrangements. This will set the framework for development both within the NHS and in local partnership arrangements.

Health: Screening

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has any plans to include testosterone tests as part of the assessment of diabetes risk in the men's health check; [84259]

(2) whether he has any plans to update the range of tests conducted under the NHS Health Check programme. [84287]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Health Check programme is based on guidance produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence—which reviews the clinical and cost-effectiveness of interventions in medicine and advises on how to improve people's health and prevent illness—and on economic modelling undertaken by the Department. We continue to keep the components of the NHS Health Check under review as new evidence emerges.

NHS Trusts: Finance

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* debt and *(b)* revenue budget balance has been of each NHS hospital trust in England outside of London in each of the last four years. [84265]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

NHS Trusts: Private Finance Initiative

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payment would have to be made to enable the relevant health care trust to exit each private finance initiative contract signed by his Department between 1997 and 2010. [84347]

Mr Simon Burns: Under a private finance initiative contract, national health service trusts may terminate the contract with notice at any time, without having to prove right and regardless of any prejudice to the private sector. Under these circumstances, compensation would be payable to the contractor on a trust default basis, the financial calculations of which aim to put the contractor in a position that is equivalent to that had the contract run its full length. The size of the agreed payment will thus be specific to individual schemes.

NHS: Negligence

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical negligence claims involving a fatality were made in each year since 1997-8; and what the monetary value was of payments made against such claims in each year. [84345]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows the number of clinical negligence fatality claims by the year in which they were notified to the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA), the number of claims closed in each year, and the damage paid in each year since 1997-98.

		Claims closed	
NHSLA notification year	*Number of claims received*	*Number Closed*	*Damages paid (£)*
1997-98	223	223	14,275,129
1998-99	659	659	24,600,103
1999-2000	458	457	25,733,683
2000-01	514	514	23,769,768
2001-02	655	653	25,776,260
2002-03	697	697	27,311,964
2003-04	628	624	19,674,262
2004-05	645	638	19,111,752
2005-06	654	643	25,501,204
2006-07	640	622	26,154,377
2007-08	712	663	27,143,395
2008-09	758	612	19,259,740
2009-10	903	565	13,792,949

Source:
NHS Litigation Authority, 2011

NHS: Pensions

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS paid in employer contributions to NHS pensions in each financial year since 1997-98 in respect of *(a)* senior managers, *(b)* general practitioners and *(c)* nurses. [84342]

Mr Simon Burns: It is not possible to segregate pension contributions by job type in respect of senior managers, general practitioners (GPs) and nurses from 1997. Employers pay contributions for all their employees and do not break down the contributions to job type level. Analysis of this data would involve disproportionate costs.

Data relating to GPs and employer contributions are available from 2009. The following table provided by the NHS Pensions Agency illustrates the sum of contributions paid by GPs between 2009-11.

		£000
GP contributions to the NHS Pension Scheme	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Employer contributions	463,000	470,754
Employee contributions	365,858	317,225
Total contributions	829,426	787,979

Source:
The NHS Pension Scheme and NHS Compensation for retirement Scheme Resource Accounts.

GP practices are required to pay the 14% employee contribution for all staff who are members of the NHS pension scheme, including GP partners who own the practice itself. As part of the new contractual and payment arrangements agreed with the GPs Committee of the British Medical Association in 2004, GP practices are provided with the necessary funding to fully meet the required employers pension contributions.

Contributions made by and on behalf of GPs are to pay for pension promises being built up and are assessed by the Scheme Actuary using SCAPE methodology (Superannuation Contributions Adjusted for Past Experience).

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of retired members of the NHS pension scheme who are in receipt of £33,000 or more per year as part of their NHS pension. [84343]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of retired members of the NHS Pension Scheme who are in receipt of over £33,000 per year, and excluding any lump sum payments or any pensions arrears is as follows:

	Pensioners
2010-11	25,531
2009-10	23,499
2008-09	20,057

The data were provided by the NHS Pensions Agency.

NHS: Public Bodies

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date each *(a)* foundation trust, *(b)* NHS social enterprise, *(c)* pathfinder clinical commissioning group, *(d)* practice-based commissioning groups and *(e)* pathfinder health and wellbeing board in England was established; for each such body which has since ceased to exist, what the date of closure was; and which constituencies each such body serves. [84346]

Mr Simon Burns: Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) has authorised 141 national health service foundation trusts. A table listing the organisations and their authorisation dates (as at 1 December 2011) has been placed in the Library.

Since its introduction in 2008, 40 social enterprises have been established under the Right to Request policy by NHS staff working in primary and community care. These social enterprises comprise approximately 10% of community staff and 11% of the community services budget. A table listing the organisations and their go-live dates (as of 30 November 2011) has been placed in the Library.

The pathfinder clinical commissioning group (CCGs) programme is about testing the principles of our proposals for clinical commissioning groups. As such pathfinder CCGs will be able to change their composition, as they work to find the most appropriate configuration for improving care for their patients, before they apply to the NHS Commissioning Board for to be established. With the announcement of Cohort 6 of the pathfinder programme 266 pathfinder CCGs were in existence.

A complete list of those CCGs is available on the Department's website at:

http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/context/consortia/

The cohorts were announced as follows:

Cohort 1: 8 December 2010

Cohort 2: 17 January 2011

Cohort 3: 2 March 2011

Cohort 4: 1 April 2011

Cohort 5: 7 July 2011

Cohort 6: 10 October 2011

Information on practice based commissioning groups is not held centrally.

It is for partners in local areas to establish their own arrangements and time scales for setting up health and wellbeing boards.

Obesity: Children

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on tackling childhood obesity; and if he will make a statement. [84378]

Anne Milton: The Government have recently published "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A call to action on obesity in England". This sets out how obesity among children will be tackled in the new public health and national health service systems, and the role of key partners.

The Government have set a new national ambition for reversing the trend in the level of excess weight in children by 2020. The call to action sets out a number of initiatives to tackle childhood obesity, this includes the Change4Life Programme, the National Child Measurement Programme, the school games and Change4Life sports clubs.

A copy of the call to action has already been placed in the Library.

Patients

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been treated by the NHS in each of the last 10 years. [84327]

Mr Simon Burns: The available information is shown in the following table.

Out-patient and in-patient hospital activity, England (provider based)

	Out-patients			*In-patients*		
	1st attendances seen	*Subsequent attendances seen*	*Total attendances seen*	*Elective general and acute FFCEs*	*Non-elective general and acute FFCEs*	*Total general and acute FFCEs*
2001-02	12,612,615	31,062,363	43,674,978	5,286,086	3,967,192	9,253,278
2002-03	12,878,799	30,886,026	43,764,825	5,413,638	4,013,308	9,426,946
2003-04	13,430,530	31,689,082	45,119,612	5,549,737	4,289,573	9,839,309
2004-05	13,370,173	31,397,428	44,767,601	5,529,668	4,549,542	10,079,210
2005-06	13,726,838	31,494,275	45,221,113	5,762,285	4,781,500	10,543,785
2006-07	13,600,443	31,109,612	44,710,055	5,964,409	4,895,313	10,859,722
2007-08	14,214,277	31,488,416	45,702,693	6,499,121	4,974,598	11,473,719
2008-09	15,536,590	33,176,698	48,713,288	6,778,017	5,205,350	11,983,367
2009-10	16,412,534	34,327,011	50,739,545	6,951,646	5,364,563	12,316,209
2010-11	16,954,190	35,498,064	52,452,254	7,211,663	5,499,325	12,710,988

Notes:
The out-patient attendances are for all specialties. The in-patient First Finished Consultant Episodes (FFCEs) are for general and acute specialties only. General and acute does not include maternity, mental illness and learning disability.
Source:
Department of Health Quarterly Activity Return (QAR) for outpatient attendances and Monthly Activity Return (MAR) for In-patient FFCEs.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84188]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department uses postcode information in a wide range of analytical and statistical systems, typically as a means to link datasets together or to relate data to larger geographical areas such as local authority areas and the output areas defined by the Office for National Statistics for use in reporting census data and other statistical products.

For example, in calculating primary care trust target revenue allocations, the Department obtains data from national health service systems on the number of patients registered with general practices by postcode. This information is used to estimate the number of general practice registrations in output areas for which other information is available, such as estimates of levels of deprivation. Departmental outputs are not typically published at postcode level.

A full listing of all uses of postcode data could be provided only at disproportionate cost. We are also unable to identify the very wide use of postcode data within the NHS, except at disproportionate cost.

Pregnant Women: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services are provided by his Department to partners of expectant mothers in Coventry. [84087]

Anne Milton: Local national health service organisations develop health services to meet the needs and priorities of their populations. To help this process the Department recently launched three resources: "Preparing for Birth and Beyond", "Reaching out: Involving fathers in maternity care" and "Top tips for involving fathers in maternity care".

These publications have been placed in the Library.

Radiotherapy

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which hospitals provide Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Treatment (SBRT) for cancer patients; and how many *(a)* early stage lung cancer and *(b)* prostate cancer patients were treated with SBRT in each hospital in the last year for which figures are available; [84003]

(2) on what date the National Clinical Director for Cancer informed him of the need to develop a stereotactic body radiotherapy tariff; who in his Department is responsible for the development of the tariff; what progress his Department has made in developing the tariff; and when he expects to make the national tariff for stereotactic radiotherapy available to commissioners; [84004]

(3) pursuant to the answers of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 536W, of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 311-12W and of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 636-7W, on radiotherapy, whether commissioners are able to spend the extra £150 million allocated for new radiotherapy services on services unrelated to radiotherapy or the treatment of cancer. [84021]

Paul Burstow: The £150 million additional funding is included in overall primary care trust (PCT) baseline allocations. These allocations are not broken down by service or policy area. It is for PCTs to commission services using these funds to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities.

The National Cancer Director has made no recommendation to the Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), concerning the need to develop a tariff for stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT). We have said work is under way nationally to develop radiotherapy tariffs and this will include consideration of a tariff for SBRT in due course. The development of tariffs is the responsibility of the Department's Payment by Results team.

Hospital episode statistics are unable to provide data concerning the total number of patients receiving SBRT or those receiving SBRT for either early stage lung cancer or prostate cancer. There is only one clinical coding available for identifying SBRT and this is for stereotactic radiosurgery on tissue of the brain. However, we understand that SBRT is already available to patients on the national health service in over a quarter of all radiotherapy centres in England.

Social Services: Fees and Charges

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Department for Communities and Local Government on the possible extra costs for the NHS of local authorities introducing changes to the criteria governing eligibility for social care; [84704]

(2) what estimate he has made of the possible extra costs which will be incurred by the NHS in each region as a result of local authorities introducing changes to the criteria for eligibility for social care. [84705]

Paul Burstow: In the spending review, Government recognised the pressures on the adult social care system within a challenging settlement for local government, and took the decision to prioritise adult social care by allocating an additional £7.2 billion to the system over the four years to 2014-15 to support local authorities in delivering social care.

When combined with a rigorous local authority focus on efficiency, this additional £7.2 billion means that there is funding available to protect people's access to care and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

Social Services: Standards

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure consistent levels of provision of social care support across the country. [84086]

Paul Burstow: Local authorities are responsible for providing or arranging care services for their populations. Their funds are derived from local taxation and funding from central Government. The great majority of this funding is provided without condition. It is for local authorities to decide how best to manage their resources, according to local priorities.

In the spending review, the Government recognised the pressures on the adult social care system within a challenging settlement for local government. They took the decision to prioritise adult social care by allocating an additional £7.2 billion to local authorities over the four years to 2014-15 to support them in meeting their social care commitments.

When combined with a rigorous local focus on efficiency, this additional money will mean that there is funding available to protect people's access to care and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

Tuberculosis

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made in preventing the spread of tuberculosis. [84472]

Anne Milton: Provisional data for 2010 show there were 7,862 cases of tuberculosis (TB) in England, a decrease of 7% on the corresponding number of cases in 2009, which is encouraging. However, it is too early to say whether this is the beginning of a downward trend. Sustained action by national health service organisations and their partners is needed to improve detection, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of TB. Final data for 2010 will be published by the Health Protection Agency later this month.

The Department and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have published guidance to help the NHS in commissioning and providing effective TB services. We are also funding the TB national charity, TB Alert, to raise public and professional awareness of TB.

DEFENCE

Stephen Crouch

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* special advisers in his Department have met Mr Stephen Crouch on official business since May 2010; and how many such meetings took place (i) on his Department's premises and (ii) elsewhere. [78848]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 25-26W, to the hon. Member for Wrexham (Ian Lucas).

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to provide additional minutes of free talk time above normal allocations over the Christmas and new year period for armed forces personnel serving in Afghanistan. [84466]

Mr Robathan: Armed forces personnel serving abroad on operations routinely receive an extra 30 minutes free talk time during Christmas week from the MOD. This is in addition to their regular weekly allocation, which is a minimum of 30 minutes, dependent on tour length. These allowances are provided under the WelComE (Welfare Communications Everywhere) project, which forms part of the deployment welfare package. This year personnel will also receive an additional 45 minutes from Paradigm, the communications company responsible for providing the WelComE service.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of Christmas cards and gifts sent to British service personnel in Afghanistan which arrived in time for Christmas in 2010. [84616]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) on 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 452-53W.

All mail received at the British Forces Post Office sorting depot by 3 December 2010 was delivered to Afghanistan in time for Christmas.

Air Force: Military Bases

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 993W, on Air Force: military bases, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* positions held are of those attending the meetings on 11 January and 26 May 2011. [77318]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* At both meetings, the previous Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), was supported by a private secretary, and by a special adviser.

Armed Forces: Crime

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many arrests have been made by the Ministry of Defence Police since May 2010; and how many of those arrests resulted in prosecutions. [84002]

Mr Robathan: The Police national computer records that the Ministry of Defence Police has held 528 arrest summons reports within England and Wales, since 1 May 2010. The prosecution result of these arrests could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the use of depth therapy for the physical and psychological rehabilitation of wounded service personnel. [84611]

Mr Robathan: The policy of the Defence Mental Health Services is to provide psychotherapies that have a proven evidence base for their use in the UK. "Depth therapy" is a name given to one of many varieties of psychoanalytic therapy, but it is not one which has been specifically approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for use in the UK. NICE only approve treatments which have been rigorously scientifically investigated and represent an acceptable risk-benefit intervention.

NICE guidance on treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder indicates that two psychotherapeutic interventions are known to be effective; these are Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (TF-CBT) and Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR). Both of these are available through the Ministry of Defence's military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH), and are delivered by appropriately trained and supervised practitioners.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to make information about injured service personnel more accessible to the public. [84687]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence is committed to making public a range of information on the numbers of service personnel injured on operations. We publish the numbers of personnel categorised as very seriously injured and seriously injured as a result of Operation Herrick on our website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm

The figures are updated fortnightly.

In addition, we publish on a quarterly basis the numbers of service personnel who have suffered limb amputations as a result of injuries sustained while on operational deployment, and Defence Analytical Services

and Advice (DASA) published figures up to 30 September 2011 in November 2011. However, in order both to protect the identities of small numbers of patients and to maintain operational security for the effectiveness of our protective countermeasures, we do not routinely publish very serious injury and serious injury sub-classified by other types of physical injury.

DASA also publishes the UK Armed Forces Mental Health Report four times a year (plus an annual digest), which summarises all episodes of care of service personnel to the MOD's Departments of Community Mental Health for out-patient care, and new admissions to the MOD's in-patient care contractor.

All DASA health and medical reports can be found on the DASA website www.dasa.mod.uk under "Other Publications" and "Health/Medical Statistics". This website includes the annual Defence Statistics publication that provides health related information in chapter three. This publication includes operational fatalities and injuries tables.

Armed Forces: Members

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations his Department has received from *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military sources concerning the (i) operations and (ii) sponsorship of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme in the last five years. [80925]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* In the last five years, the Ministry of Defence has received eight parliamentary questions, five letters from hon. Members and one letter from a member of the public. The MOD has also received 20 freedom of information requests. Other representations may have been received, but are not held centrally or are not identifiable.

There have also been various discussions between military officers and Ministers.

Armed Forces: Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* current and *(b)* former members of the armed forces who have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. [84962]

Mr Robathan: The following table shows the number of patients attending a Ministry of Defence (MOD) Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) who were initially assessed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) during the period 1 April 2007 to 30 June 2011, the latest date for which verified data is available.

	PTSD cases
2007-08	174
2008-09	142
2009-10	195
2010-11	253
1 April-30 June 2011	59

Figures up to June 2009 are for each first referral of an individual to a DCMH. Since July 2009, each new episode of care has been recorded, meaning that individuals who have been previously treated and discharged from care, but subsequently re-referred, will be counted again. Equivalent verified data prior to 2007 are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

This answer incorporates data from the latest UK Armed Forces Mental Health Report (issued on 30 September 2011) which includes statistics on PTSD. This information can be found on the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) website www.DASA.mod.uk under "Other Publications" and "Health/Medical Statistics". A copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House.

Ex-service personnel who require treatment for PTSD will receive it through their local NHS provider, and no central record is maintained of the numbers diagnosed with the condition. However, we continue to work closely with the Department of Health to improve the whole range of mental health care available to former servicemen and women.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Repairs and Maintenance

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK armoured vehicles have undergone major repair and overhaul in the last five years; what proportion of the fleet this represents; and where the repairs were undertaken. [82724]

Peter Luff: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Vehicle	*Geographical location of repair*	*Base overhaulleconomic base repair (last five years)*	*Percentage of fleet as at 22 November 2011*
Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle	Bovington	40	50
Challenger 2	Bovington	37	11
Warrior	Donnington	458	58
Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked)	Donnington	432	37
FV430/Bulldog	Bovington	795	89

Base overhaul involves the complete disassembly/reassembly of the vehicle, including qualification of the hull, to design specification. Economic base repair involves selective disassembly/reassembly of the vehicles including qualification of the hull, to design specification.

The figure does not include repairs such as assembly changes, modification programmes, ad hoc repairs, overseas repairs and urgent operational requirement programmes. This information is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

AWE Aldermaston: Committees

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the remit of the Atomic Weapons Establishment's Local Liaison Committee includes consideration of classified information relating to matters which fall within the Committee's remit. [84836]

Peter Luff: The remit of the Atomic Weapons Establishment's Local Liaison Committee (LLC) relates principally to safety and the environment.

Written material provided to LLC members is not classified, and classified material is not routinely discussed at LLC meetings. However, LLC members are required to hold Government security clearances to allow discussions of a lower level classified nature, should that be necessary.

Charities

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [79081]

Mr Robathan: Funding provided through grants in aid to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. A grant in aid is typically used to fund part or all of the administration costs of the recipient body.

Body	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11 (final outturn)*
Air Training Corps	33,005	34,000	34,850	35,721	36,614
Armed Forces Memorial	—	—	—	113,113	205,612
National Memorial Arboretum	250,000	189,220	371,296	346,950	433,942
Army Families Federation	291,444	293,190	300,093	332,100	366,558
Army Sports Control Board	307,245	417,195	434,032	425,744	458,960
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	32,392,094	34,199,339	36,601,286	47,844,871	44,641,049
Council of the Reserve Forces and Cadets Associations	—	57,489,076	59,369,448	63,490,300	62,758,836
Council of Voluntary Welfare Work	125,469	80,448	85,273	77,793	144,803
Duke of York's Royal Military School	—	—	—	—	154,469
Fleet Air Arm Museum	593,724	614,000	631,000	[1]—	[1]—
Gurkha Welfare Trust	679,010	988,000	1,077,000	938,000	1,421,000
National Army Museum	5,292,879	5,489,000	5,734,850	5,515,222	6,312,403
National Museum of the Royal Navy	—	—	—	3,237,466	2,797,046
Naval Families Federation	149,220	92,620	185,000	223,000	248,601
RAF Museum	6,774,110	7,019,000	7,989,309	7,367,000	7,552,000
RAF Sports Board	165,923	65,865	149,837	288,387	160,770
Royal Marine Museum	740,788	765,480	783,000	[1]—	[1]—
Royal Navy Museum	895,502	873,000	1,045,000	[1]—	[1]—
RN Sports Board	272,907	—	—	—	—
RN Submarine Museum	561,997	575,708	591,000	[1]—	[1]—
Royal British Legion Polish Ex-servicemen	81,567	141,000	120,000	110,181	80,000
Royal British Legion War Widows	65,665	61,000	61,000	62,220	[2]—
Royal Hospital Chelsea	9,232,000	9,554,000	10,487,000	10,824,000	10,838,000
Royal Irish Home Service Benevolent Fund	—	—	—	124,179	64,246
Royal Navy Marine Society and Sea Cadets	8,228,969	9,300,419	8,941,426	9,450,215	9,224,094
Scott Polar Research Institute	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Skill Force	2,502,000	1,000,000	500,000	250,000	[3]—
Victoria & George Cross Reunion Association	30,000	—	40,000	40,000	—

[1] The National Museum of the Royal Navy has provided funding to the Fleet Air Arm Museum, the Royal Marines Museum, the Royal Navy Museum and the Royal Navy Submarine Museum since 2009-10.
[2] The Royal British Legion did not arrange any pilgrimages in 2010-11.
[3] Skills Force is now funded by the Department for Education and Skills.

A breakdown of expenditure including grants as well as grants in aid could be provided only at disproportionate cost as the grant funding mechanism is delegated locally and we do not currently identify discretely those grants which relate to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. We also provide funding to the sector through commercial contractual arrangements for specific services.

In my answer to the hon. Member for Vale of Clwyd (Chris Ruane) on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 26-28W, I gave the provisional outturn figures for 2010-11. This answer updates those figures to final outturn, corrects the 2007-08 and 2009-10 balance of funding between the Armed Forces Memorial and the National Memorial Arboretum and shows the RAF Sports/Sports Control Board as a single line entry. I apologise for the errors and for the delay in answering this question.

Cyprus: Armed Forces

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) to which local authorities service personnel currently stationed in Cyprus will return; and how many such personnel will return to each such local authority; [83359]

(2) how many service personnel currently stationed in Cyprus will return to the UK; and when any such return will take place. [83360]

Nick Harvey: As part of the Army's routine unit rotations: the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment (2 R ANGLIAN) and The 2nd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment (2 YORKS) are the two infantry units currently stationed in Cyprus.

2 R ANGLIAN are due to return to the former Royal Air Force station at Cottesmore, in Rutland county council, in July 2012. This will see the move of approximately 620 service personnel and their families.

2 YORKS are due to move from Cyprus to Elizabeth Barracks, in Surrey county council, in July 2013. This will also see the move of some 620 service personnel and their families.

These moves are routine and troop numbers in Cyprus will therefore remain unchanged; both 2 R ANGLIAN and 2 YORKS will be replaced by other infantry battalions. The Royal Air Force will continue to rotate individuals out of Cyprus as part of routine postings.

Defence Acquisition Independent Review

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which recommendations from the Gray Review of Defence Acquisition the Government *(a)* has implemented and *(b)* plans to implement. [83351]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence accepted the majority of the Gray Review's recommendations, as set out in "The Defence Strategy for Acquisition Reform (CM 7796)" published in February 2010. The resulting actions have either been progressed, taken into defence reform more broadly or are being reconsidered as part of the forthcoming Materiel Strategy.

Defence: Finance

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of the £4.3 billion new front-line savings identified in the Strategic Defence and Security Review have been made to date. [83358]

Mr Philip Hammond: Non front-line savings have been built into the budgets delegated to the Ministry of Defence's top level budget (TLB) holders. The Department monitors TLBs' performance against their budget on a monthly basis, and their implementation of non front-line savings and efficiencies quarterly.

Detailed analysis of our performance against these measures will be reported annually, after the departmental accounts have been audited.

Defence: Procurement

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* delivery timescale of the Falcon Increment A Project; what the budget was for the project; and if he will make a statement. [80927]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The anticipated costs of Increment A of Project Falcon are projected to be £272 million; the budget for Increment A is £324 million as stated in the 2010 Major Projects Review. The delivery timescale of the project is currently under review.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible; [83775]

(2) what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available; [83776]

(3) what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83777]

Peter Luff: Catering for Ministry of Defence (MOD) civilian personnel employed at UK Defence establishments is provided through regional prime contracts or under multi-activity contracts. Armed forces personnel 'in barracks' are primarily catered for through a number of catering, retail and leisure (CRL) and other multi-activity contracts.

Information on the procurement of liquefied eggs obtained from outside of the UK and on the proportion of food procured under these contracts from UK suppliers, is not held.

Contractors appointed under these arrangements are obliged to source on the open market consistent with meeting EU competition rules and quality standards.

For armed forces personnel not covered by these contractual arrangements and those serving on operations and overseas exercises, there is a single food supply contract with Purple Foodservice Solutions Ltd (PFS). PFS lists approximately 1,150 different food-related items for the armed forces in the core range price list. Currently, they estimate that approximately 60% of lines listed (excluding fresh produce) are sourced from suppliers within the UK. The percentage figures for previous years, for which figures are readily available, are shown in the following table.

	Percentage
2006-07	43
2007-08	59
2008-09	62
2009-10	60

The percentage of UK produced goods changes regularly as a result of seasonality; value for money incentives; and changes of supplier. Some products are manufactured using a number of ingredients from various countries including the UK while others, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, are sourced seasonally from a variety of countries.

All food procured through the PFS contract, including whole eggs, is produced to UK and EU production and farm assurance standards or equivalent. We do not procure liquefied eggs under this contract.

The MOD is fully committed to supporting the Government Buying Standards (GBS) except where operational requirements make this impractical. MOD food provision in terms of the operational arena and in circumstances of extreme training conditions is exempt from those GBS which may adversely affect the nutritional status and well-being of personnel. In these circumstances, it is recognised that the personnel are operating under very different circumstances to those which the GBS criteria were developed to meet.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on special advisers in 2010-11; how much has been allocated for 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [79200]

Mr Philip Hammond: In financial year 2010-11, the Ministry of Defence spent around £160,000 on salaries for special advisers. The cost of special advisers is treated as one part of the cost of the private office, as such there is no separate allocation for special advisers.

Procurement

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has audited the framework agreement technical support process in the last 12 months; and if he will make any such audit public. [82029]

Peter Luff: In January 2011, Defence Internal Audit was commissioned to produce a report on the Framework Agreement for Technical Support. This was issued on 4 November 2011 and I will place a copy in the Library of the House.

EU Defence Policy

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what officials from his Department will attend the European Defence Agency's conference on European Defence Co-operation on 31 January 2012. [84365]

Peter Luff: On current plans, the European Defence Agency's conference on European Defence Co-operation will be attended by the MOD's Head of Defence International Acquisition Policy.

European Defence Agency

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he last met the Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency; and what was discussed at that time. [84363]

Peter Luff: The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has not yet had the opportunity to meet the chief executive of the European Defence Agency (EDA). The Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for Aldershot (Mr Howarth), met with the chief executive at the EDA Steering Board in Defence Ministers formation in Brussels on 30 November 2011, at which a range of issues were discussed including pooling and sharing, operations and partnerships.

Ex-servicemen: Employment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what tailored training and advice is made available by his Department to help veterans of the armed forces find work; [83822]

(2) what support his Department makes available to help those leaving the armed forces to find work; and at what cost such help is made available. [83824]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 29 November 2011]:* All service leavers are entitled to some form of resettlement advice, whatever their rank and length of service. Further support is available to eligible personnel through the Career Transition Partnership (a partnership between the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Right Management) through training courses, which are free from tuition fees; career transition workshops; employment and future career advice; assistance with CV writing and job preparation; vocational training; and a job-search/recruitment facility. In addition, lifetime job finding support is available from the Officers' Association or the Regular Forces Employment Association.

Each jobcentre district has an armed forces champion who has up-to-date knowledge of armed forces issues in the local area and will also provide support to veterans. Welfare benefits are a matter for the Department for Work and Pensions but advice and assistance in accessing benefits is available from the MOD's Veterans Welfare Service.

The contract with the Career Transition Partnership is currently valued at some £9 million each year.

Germany: Armed Forces

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) to which local authorities armed forces personnel returning from Germany by 2015 will return; and how many such personnel will return to each such local authority; [83356]

(2) how many armed forces personnel will return from Germany by 2015. [83357]

Peter Luff: As stated in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Ministry of Defence aims to return half of its personnel based in Germany to the UK by 2015. On 10 November, the Army announced the return of some 1,800 personnel and their families to Cottesmore, Pirbright and Abingdon as part of a preliminary moves package. The local authorities concerned in these cases are Rutland county council, Surrey county council and Oxfordshire county council respectively.

Further work is currently ongoing into the future size and structure of the Army and this is expected to provide the detail of the estate requirements for the remaining units returning from Germany. Until work is complete, it is too early to identify precisely which local authorities will be affected.

Guided Weapons

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many air sorties were flown in the Afghanistan campaign in each month of the two years to the end of October 2011. [82725]

Mr Philip Hammond: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Harrier Aircraft: Costs

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the per unit purchase cost of GR9 Harriers was when the aircraft first entered service. [84366]

Peter Luff: The Harrier GR9 was not purchased from new but was an upgrade of the previous Harrier GR7 aircraft. This aircraft was itself an upgrade of the Harrier GR5 which was introduced into service in 1989. The upgrade to GR9 standard was achieved through a series of incremental steps implemented during normal maintenance periods under the £500 million joint upgrade and maintenance programme.

Including the historical cost of the Harrier GR5, as recorded in the Ministry of Defence's fixed asset register, and subsequent upgrade costs, the average cost of a Harrier GR9 was some £21.5 million.

Overall the sale of the Harrier fleet and associated running and maintenance costs will save around £1 billion.

Lockheed Martin

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* total monetary value and *(b)* type was of each contract between his Department and (i) Lockheed Martin and (ii) Northrop Grumman in the financial year 2009-10. [77186]

Peter Luff: There were 159 extant contracts in place with Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman during financial year 2009-10 against which payments were made by the Ministry of Defence. This number includes contracts with companies that are subsidiaries of the respective holding companies and some which are part of joint ventures with other companies.

The values are provided in the following table:

Contract value banding	*Number of Lockheed Martin contracts*	*Number of Northrop Grumman contracts*
Over £500 million	2	1
£250 million to £500 million	1	0
£100 million to £250 million	3	1
£50 million to £100 million	6	1
£25 million to £50 million	7	0
£10 million to £25 million	10	1
£5 million to £10 million	7	1
Under £5 million	68	50
Total contracts	104	55

The types of contracts are given in the following table:

Industrial Grouping	*Number of Lockheed Martin contracts*	*Number of Northrop Grumman contracts*
Aircraft and Spacecraft	10	2
Computer services	21	3
Data Processing Equipment	2	0
Electricity, Gas and Water	2	0
Electronics	3	26
Financial Services, Business Activities, Education, Health, and Other Service Activities Not Elsewhere Classified (NEC)	32	0
Transportation Activities	1	0
Manufacturing N.E.C	9	10
Motor Vehicles and Parts	1	1
Other Electrical Engineering	3	4
Precision Instruments	7	7
Real Estate and Renting	1	0
Telecommunications	2	0
Weapons and Ammunition	9	2
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles	1	0
Total	104	55

Pitcairn Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's officials have visited the overseas territory of the Pitcairn Islands in each of the last 10 years. [83208]

Nick Harvey: There are no records of any Defence officials visiting the Pitcairn Islands in the last 10 years.

RAF Leuchars

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether an assessment has been made of the effect of the proposed transfer of the Typhoon force from RAF Leuchars to RAF Lossiemouth on flying hours per squadron per year as currently maintained at RAF Leuchars. [83904]

Nick Harvey: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, the hon. Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff), on 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 694-95W.

Territorial Army

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army personnel are on active service; and how many are expected to be on active service during the Christmas period. [85023]

Mr Robathan: As at 23 November 2011, there were 630 Territorial Army (TA) personnel who have been mobilised on active service, most of whom are supporting the UK's Regular Forces in Afghanistan. We expect the figure for those who will be on active service over the Christmas period to be similar.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Rates

21. **Craig Whittaker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to introduce a scheme for businesses experiencing financial difficulties to defer payment of business rates from April 2012. [84515]

Robert Neill: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced in his autumn statement that the Government will give businesses the opportunity to defer 60% of the increase in their 2012-13 business rate bills as a result of the annual Retail Prices Index uprating, to be repaid equally across the following two years.

I also refer my hon. Friend to my written ministerial statement made today on local government finance, which further highlights this Government's support for business.

Tottenham Regeneration

22. **Mr Lammy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to support regeneration in Tottenham; and if he will make a statement. [84516]

Mr Pickles: We are providing £20 million for the Mayor to support the regeneration of Tottenham and Croydon through the London Enterprise Fund. The Mayor will be making an announcement about the use of this funding, together with additional funding from the Greater London Authority, in the new year. Funding from the Riot Recovery Scheme and High Street Support funding have also been made available.

Government Procurement Card

23. **Mr Marcus Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to increase transparency in the use of the Government Procurement Card by his Department. [84517]

Mr Pickles: We have opened up these taxpayer-funded corporate credit cards to the sunlight of transparency.

My Department has published details of every single transaction from the beginning of 2011 back to 2006.

That openness has helped us identify waste and inefficiency, saving taxpayers' money.

Home Ownership

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to support home ownership. [84501]

Grant Shapps: On 21 November we published our Housing Strategy which sets out an ambitious programme to support home ownership, including support for up to 100,000 prospective buyers with small deposits to buy a new home and increasing Right to Buy discounts to up to 50%, benefiting up to 100,000 current tenants.

Third Sector

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on the third sector of reductions in funding for local authorities. [84511]

Andrew Stunell: Local spending decisions are a matter for local councils but there is no excuse to target the voluntary sector disproportionately.

We are working closely with the third sector to assess capacity and provide support, for example through the Transition Fund and Big Society Capital and we are looking together at opportunities for the voluntary and community sector from increased local authority commissioning.

Council Tax Benefits

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has held with local authorities on the timescale of the introduction of his planned local authority-based schemes for council tax benefit support. [84054]

Robert Neill: Officials from the Department regularly meet with local government representatives to discuss a range of issues. During the consultation on proposals for the localisation of support for council tax the Department held 16 engagement events with local authorities and other interested groups.

Policy Announcements

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions during the present session of Parliament new policy announcements have been briefed to the media by *(a)* him and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department before they were made to Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [84761]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to him on 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 911-12W. I would add that during parliamentary recess, on those occasions where policy announcements need to be made, we ensure that hon. and right hon. Members are updated when the House returns in the form of a post-recess written ministerial statement; details of such announcements are documented in the *Official Report*.

Empty Property

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to return empty homes to use. [84500]

Andrew Stunell: We have put in place powerful tools and incentives to support local communities to tackle empty homes. The Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister published "Laying the Foundations"—A Housing Strategy for England on 21 November which sets out our plans for dealing with empty homes.

Green Belt

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures his Department has put in place to protect the Green Belt from housing developments. [84372]

Robert Neill: We have clearly stated our commitment to maintaining strong protections for the Green Belt. National policy on Green Belt protection—in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2: "Green Belts"—is being updated as part of the National Planning Policy Framework. The draft Framework includes rigorous policies for the continued protection of Green Belt from inappropriate development. We are now considering all responses received to our consultation on the draft Framework. Our proposed abolition of the unpopular Regional Strategies would remove top-down pressure on councils to review the extent of their Green Belt in 30 areas across England.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the basis was for his decision to introduce a zero carbon requirement for all new homes from 2016 instead of a nearly zero carbon requirement from 2021. [84040]

Grant Shapps: The previous Administration set the target for all new homes to be zero carbon from 2016 following a consultation launched in December 2006. The consensus following that consultation was that the 2016 date provided a realistic timetable. This Government endorsed that objective and timetable after we came in to office. The Government recognises that the 2016 target is challenging and we have redefined the zero carbon homes standard in a way which is much more practical and cost effective and is supported by the sector, in particular through the invaluable work carried out by the Zero Carbon Hub. The requirement for new homes to be nearly zero energy by 31 December 2020 comes from the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive recast, which was adopted in May 2010.

Housing: Fire Extinguishers

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment was made in developing the Building Regulations 2000 of the merits of requiring installation of automatic fire suppression systems in new residential premises with respect to *(a)* comparative evidence from other countries, *(b)* the effect on the environment of a reduction in the size of fires, *(c)* the effect on the economy of a reduction in the size of fires, *(d)* the effect on firefighter safety and *(e)* the risk of fire for an ageing population. [84552]

Robert Neill: The last review of the fire safety aspects of the Building Regulations was completed in 2006. The Final Regulatory Impact Assessment was published on 13 December 2006. This sets out the details of the assessments made at that time and refers to the cost benefit analysis that formed part of a 2005 study into the effectiveness of residential sprinklers. This study relied extensively on US data where UK data were not available. The Impact Assessment and the 2005 report can be found on the Department website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/regulatoryimpactassessment10

and

www.bre.co.uk/filelibrary/pdf/rpts/partb/sprinkler_section6.pdf

Housing: Older People

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure house building schemes take into account the needs of older people. [84649]

Robert Neill: Part M (access to and use of buildings) of the building regulations already includes a number of provisions including level thresholds, downstairs toilets and accessible switches and sockets that help to make all new homes more accessible and age friendly. In addition, the Housing Strategy published on 21 November sets out the Government's view that new housing developments need to make further suitable provision for the ageing population by ensuring a mix of property types, including lifetime homes, which help to provide the diversity and choice needed to support longer term independent living. Future needs will vary considerably at a local level and we believe that decisions on the number of lifetime homes within each development should be made at a local level, in proportion to local need and aligned with other local housing support and information services. We are exploring how research undertaken by DCLG can be used to support local authorities in developing proportionate and effective policy at a local level.

The draft national planning policy framework asks local councils to plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends and the needs of different groups in the community, including older and disabled people. The draft framework makes clear that councils should have a robust understanding of housing requirements in their area, and that they should produce local plans, in consultation with people in the local area.

Local Government: Pensions

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has undertaken an economic impact assessment in respect of the proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme on members in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Coventry and *(c)* Coventry North East constituency. [84489]

Robert Neill: I refer the right hon. Member to the answers given on 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 23W, to the hon. Members for Gedling (Vernon Coaker) and Stoke-on-Trent Central (Tristam Hunt).

Planning Permission: Biodiversity

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department plans to provide to local planning authorities on suitable indicators for monitoring the

protection and restoration of biodiversity through the planning system. [84025]

Robert Neill: In our consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework we asked for views about supporting guidance and who could provide it. We are carefully considering all of the submissions that have been made to the consultation before announcing our intentions.

The Natural Environment White Paper in setting out the Government's proposals for monitoring, including for biodiversity, explained that existing national indicators will be reviewed and streamlined. A new set of key indicators will be developed for spring 2012 including a new set of biodiversity indicators for the Biodiversity Strategy for England.

Rural Areas: Finance

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what weighting he gives to the additional cost of delivering services in rural areas when calculating formula grant. [84695]

Robert Neill: The following table shows the judgmental sparsity top-ups, which reflect the additional cost of delivering services in rural areas, included in the relative needs formulae in the 2011-12 settlement.

Relative needs formula	*Percentage allocated using judgmental sparsity top-up*
Local authority education functions	12.5
Older people's personal social services	0.43
Police	0.5
District-level environmental, protective and cultural services	3.7

Social Rented Housing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of tenants of social landlords who are of working age and whose homes will be deemed to be underoccupied on 1 April 2013 in *(a)* England and *(b)* Stockport constituency. [83570]

Andrew Stunell: The latest available estimate is that 8% of social rented sector households with a working age tenant were under-occupying their accommodation in 2009-10. This estimate is a three-year average based on data from the 2007-08 Survey of English Housing and the 2008-09 and 2009-10 English Housing Surveys. Under-occupation is measured according to the Bedroom Standard. Households are said to be under-occupying their accommodation if they have two or more bedrooms more than they need according to the Bedroom Standard. An estimate for April 2013 is not available.

Data are not available at the constituency level.

Social Rented Housing: Offenders

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will issue guidance to local housing authorities to facilitate the exclusion from publicly-funded social housing provision of persistent and prolific offenders; and if he will make a statement. [84630]

Grant Shapps: Currently, with certain limited exceptions, anyone is eligible to be allocated social housing. The Localism Act 2011 will give local authorities the power to determine who qualifies or does not qualify to go on their housing waiting list. Local authorities will be able to use this power to exclude persistent and prolific offenders from social housing, if they so choose.

We will shortly be issuing for consultation new statutory social housing allocations guidance to local authorities which will encourage them to make full use of the new and existing flexibilities within the allocation legislation.

We have also recently finished consulting on proposals to speed up the process for evicting persistent 'neighbours from hell' and to allow social tenants to be evicted where they have been convicted for offences related to violent disorder beyond their local neighbourhood.

Social Rented Housing: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions his Department has had with the third sector on provision of social housing in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry. [84651]

Andrew Stunell: As part of the affordable homes programme, the Homes and Communities Agency has undertaken a number of meetings and seminars for registered providers (mainly housing associations) in the West Midlands area. The Homes and Communities Agency also attends the quarterly regional committee meetings held by the National Housing Federation—the trade association of housing associations.

The Homes and Communities Agency has held regular meetings with partners to ensure optimum delivery in Coventry. In the Coventry and Warwickshire area, the Homes and Communities Agency is now working with 13 registered provider partners to sign contracts under the affordable homes programme. To date, contracts have been signed with eight registered provider partners to deliver homes in the Coventry and Warwickshire area. Of these contracted offers, registered providers have confirmed the level of firm and indicative units they will provide in the Coventry and Warwickshire area. In Coventry specifically, the current level of planned affordable homes delivery stands at 525 units. The Homes and Communities Agency is still in the process of signing contracts with registered providers and figures may change.

The Homes and Communities Agency is also discussing with partners in Coventry the opportunities through the empty homes and community-led development funding, with them being encouraged to work with local authorities and the Homes and Communities Agency to bring forward further delivery in this area.

Third Sector: Finance

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on the third sector of reductions in funding for local authorities. [84495]

Andrew Stunell: Local spending decisions are a matter for local councils but there is no excuse to target the voluntary sector disproportionately.

We are working closely with the third sector to assess capacity and provide support, for example through the Transition Fund and Big Society Capital and we are looking together at opportunities for the voluntary and community sector to benefit from local authority commissioning.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish a new planning policy statement on Traveller sites to replace circulars 01/2006 and 04/2007. [84841]

Robert Neill: The Government published their draft new planning policy for Traveller sites for consultation in April. The consultation closed in August. We are currently considering the consultation responses and intend to publish the new policy as soon as possible.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he intends to respond to the question tabled by the right hon. Member for Greenwich and Woolwich on 21 November 2011 regarding home starts. [R] [84371]

Grant Shapps: The question tabled by the right hon. Member for Greenwich and Woolwich was answered on 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1025W.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to introduce a bonus for each new apprenticeship in a small business. [84014]

Mr Hayes: Government are committed to helping small employers take on an apprentice. That is why we recently announced that small employers will be eligible for an incentive payment of £1,500 to take on a new apprentice aged 16-24. Funding will be available for up to 40,000 apprentices.

The National Apprenticeships Service are finalising the detailed implementation of this new scheme, and we expect to announce final eligibility criteria, and details of how to access the programme soon. We expect the scheme to commence by April 2012.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effect of *(a)* staff reductions and *(b)* organisational changes in his Department occasioned by savings requirements on the delivery of programmes for the National Apprenticeship Service in each Government office region. [84762]

Mr Hayes: This Government have funded record levels of growth in apprenticeships. We are committed to further growth in the number of apprenticeships across the country.

The restructuring of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has had no effect on the delivery of the apprenticeship programme by the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS). However, the National Apprenticeship Service is housed within the Skills Funding Agency and is contributing to the overall 33% administration savings target which has been set for the agency by the end of the spending review period. The chief executive of the NAS and the chief executive of Skills Funding are working closely together to continue to secure effective delivery of apprenticeships. These administrative savings will enable them to operate more efficiently while safeguarding the delivery of the apprenticeships programme.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he proposes that the new apprenticeship proposals outlined under the Government's youth contract scheme should be delivered through the National Apprenticeship Service's existing regional structures. [84763]

Mr Hayes: On 25 November the Government announced as part of the Youth Contract that they would increase the number of incentive payments available to small employers for taking on apprentices aged 16-24 to 40,000. The National Apprenticeships Service has been asked to work up a detailed implementation plan for the incentives scheme—which will commence by April next year.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether his Department plans to provide additional *(a)* staff and *(b)* other resources to the National Apprenticeship Service to assist the delivery of apprenticeships for young people aged between 16 and 24 years; [84764]

(2) whether his Department plans to provide additional *(a)* staff and *(b)* other resources to the National Apprenticeship Service to assist in the delivery of apprenticeship places from the Government's Youth Contract scheme. [84765]

Mr Hayes: The Department expects the National Apprenticeship Service to deliver the new initiatives within existing staff resources in line with the Government's objective to prioritise support for young people.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff the National Apprenticeship Service *(a)* had in 2010-11 and *(b)* has in 2011-12; and how many staff he expects it to have in (i) 2012-13 and (ii) 2013-14. [84766]

Mr Hayes: The Department can report that the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) had 370 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in the 2010-11 financial year.

In respect of the 2011-12 financial year, the NAS currently has 280 FTE staff.

The Department expects the NAS to have a maximum of 308 FTE staff by 2012-13 and maintain this number during 2013-14.

Data as at 31 March 2011: NAS staffing peaked at over 400 staff during the year, following the transfer of National Employer Service staff from the Skills Funding Agency.

Data as at 31 October 2011 include 29 staff who transferred in from UK Skills.

Business: Pilot Schemes

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department had with learning providers on the employer choice pilot prior to the Prime Minister's announcement of the initiative. [85012]

Mr Hayes: The UK Commission for Employment and Skills developed the initial vision for employer ownership, which directly helped shape the announcement of the pilot. The UK Commission is a non-departmental public body (NDPB) and commissioners comprise a social partnership that includes leaders from business, unions, third sector organisations and the further education (FE) and higher education (HE) sector. In developing the thinking of employer ownership, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the UK Commission engaged with a range of stakeholders that included representatives from the FE sector as well as business, unions and academics.

BIS will continue to engage with a range of stakeholders to help shape the pilot going forward.

Business: Voluntary Organisations

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to opportunities for voluntary mentoring schemes to operate alongside his Department's planned business mentoring scheme. [84571]

Mr Prisk: Voluntary mentoring schemes are an integral part of this Department's work on mentoring. Just last month I announced new grant funding of £1.2 million to recruit and train 10,000 volunteer business mentors through the "Get Mentoring" project via the Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (SFEDI). This is on top of the 5,000 volunteer business mentors already announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on 4 November 2011. Boosting the number of mentors by another 15,000 will help more businesses get this valuable help and broaden the range of experienced people available through the mentoring network.

The "Get Mentoring" project will build on the work we began with the British Bankers Association (BBA) in July when we launched Mentorsme, by helping to raise awareness of mentoring and increase the supply of experienced business people, who will then be accessible via mentoring organisations on Mentorsme.co.uk. With almost 11,000 business mentors already available through

www.mentorsme.co.uk

the "Get Mentoring" project will bring the total number of business mentors available through the mentoring portal to at least 26,000 by September 2012.

Credit

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many firms have been removed from the Consumer Credit Public Register because the Office of Fair Trading has *(a)* withdrawn and *(b)* suspended their licence in each of the last five years. [83043]

Mr Davey: The following table shows, for the last five complete financial years, the counts of all consumer credit licences which have been surrendered ("withdrawn") or revoked. (Section 32 of the Act allows for the suspension of a licence as well as revocation but this specific power has not been used in the five years reported on). For the revocations, if no appeal was received, the determination-to-revoke date itself was used to decide which year to count them under. If an appeal was made, then the appeal decision date is used. Any cases with ongoing appeals are not included.

In addition under section 37 on the Consumer Credit Act 1974 (the Act), a licence held by one individual (as a sole trader) terminates if he (a) dies, or (b) is adjudged bankrupt, or (c) becomes a person who lacks capacity (within the meaning of the Mental Capacity Act 2005) to carry on the activities covered by the licence. I have not been able to collate the data in time. However, in the last two years, a link to the Insolvency Service data have been used which has seen a significant increase in terminations of type (b), to 200+ per year.

Number

	Licences revoked	*Licences surrendered*
2006-07	14	932
2007-08	12	338
2008-09	16	357
2009-10	27	476
2010-11	39	515

Food Procurement

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on food procurement in each year from 1997 to 2011. [80315]

Mr Davey: The Department's catering services are contracted to BaxterStorey and the purchasing of food supplies is BaxterStorey's cost as it is a commercial contract.

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [76594]

Mr Davey: The total number of staff that earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year is 267. This reply covers core BIS only and the figures have been based on basic salary and permanent allowances. Our agencies are

replying separately, to obtain a reply from all our other partner organisations would incur disproportionate costs.

224 earned between £65,000 and £95,000

34 earned between £95,001 and £140,000

Seven earned between £140,001 and £175,000

Two earned over £175,001.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 3 November 2011:

The Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how many civil servants in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than (a) £65,000, (b) £95,000, (c) £140,000 and (d) £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available.

The Insolvency Service has 20 staff who earned more than £65,000 per annum in the last year, 18 of which fall into category (a) and two staff within category (b). No staff earn salaries within category (c) or (d).

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 2 November 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 19 October 2011, UIN 76594 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House employed three civil servants who earned more than £65,000 and one who earned more than £95,000 in the last year for which figures are available. We do not employ anyone earning more than £140,000.

Letter from John Alty, dated 14 November 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 19 October 2011, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office is an Executive Agency of BIS. These figures are based on base pay and permanent allowances received for the tax year 2010/2011.

The figures are:-

(a) 39 people earned above £65,000.

(b) 2 people earned above £95,000.

(c) 0

(d) 0

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 3 November 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (formerly National Weights and Measures Laboratory) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 19 October 2011 (reference 2010/7227) to the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, asking how many civil servants in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than (a) £65,000, (b) £95,000, (c) £140,000 and (d) £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available.

In the National Measurement Office there were two civil servants whose earnings were more than £65,000 in the financial year 2010/11. There were none with earnings more than £95,000.

Letter from Emma Lord:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform asking how many unpaid and expenses-only internships (a) his Department and (b) each arm's length body for which he is responsible employed in the last 12 months for which figures are available. 78368

I am responding on behalf of the Chief Executive of the UK Space Agency (an executive agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills). The UK Space Agency has not employed any unpaid and expenses-only interns in the last 12 months.

Letter from Dr Vanessa V. Lawrence, dated 3 November 2011:

As Director General and Chief Executive of Ordnance Survey, I have been asked to reply to your question on the number of civil servants at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and its associated bodies earning more than (a) £65,000, (b) £95,000, (c) £140,000 and (d) £175,000 with the information for Ordnance Survey.

The information below is for the financial year 2010/11 and shows earnings determined as base pay plus permanent allowances:

a) 7 (excluding those falling under groups b, c and d)

b) 4 (excluding those falling under groups c and d)

c) 0 (excluding group d)

d) 2

Letter from John Hirst, dated 9 November 2011:

I am replying on behalf of the Met Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 19 October 2011, UIN76594 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The information you asked for is contained in the following table.

2010-11

Earnings[1]	*Number of staff*
More than £65,000	46
More than £95,000	3
More than £140,000	2
More than £175,000	1

[1] Includes basic pay plus any permanent allowances, overtime and performance related-pay

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 2 December 2011:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills asking the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) how many civil servants in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than (a) £65,000, (b) £95,000, (c) £140,000 and (d) £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available.

Please be advised that the figures provided are for the year 1/4/2010 - 31/3/2011. In total, 167 civil servants were employed by Agency within the period who received (or where they terminated prior to 31/3/2011 had an annual earnings equivalent) within the pay bands quoted.

	Number of employees
(1) £65,000 to £94,999	151
(2) £95,000 to £139,999	15
(3) £140,000 to £174,999	1
(4) £175,000 and above	0

Letter from David Evans, dated 15 November 2011:

You tabled the following Parliamentary Question in the House on 21 October.

"To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many civil servants in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than (a) £65,000 (b) £95,000 (c) £140,000 and (d) £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available".

Land Registry, who are an Arms Length Body within the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, had (a) 41 staff (b) 3 staff (c) 1 member of staff and (d) none. These figures are for the period of 12 months to 30 September 2011.

A number of these staff have now left Land Registry.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any senior staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85086]

Mr Davey: The Department's policy is that staff salaries are paid into employees' bank accounts.

An investigation as to whether each bank account relates to an individual or a limited company would be at disproportionate cost. Without such an investigation there is no evidence that any senior civil servants in the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and its non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 5 December 2011:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills asking the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) whether any senior staff in (a) his department and (b) its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments.

Please be advised that the Agency does not pay via any limited company in lieu of salary.

Letter from John Hirst, dated 5 December 2011:

I am replying on behalf of the Met Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 30 November 2011, UIN85086 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Met Office has no staff paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary.

I hope this helps.

Letter from John Alty, dated 5 December 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) to your Parliamentary Question tabled for 30 November 2011, asking the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, whether any senior staff in (a) his Department and (b) its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments.

No senior staff at the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 2 December 2011:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question whether any senior staff in a) his Department and b) its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not pay any staff by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of salary. The Insolvency Service does not have a policy on such payments.

Letter from Tim Moss, dated 1 December 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 30 November 2011, UIN 85086 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

No senior staff in Companies House are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 5 December 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (NMO) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 25 November 2011, asking the Secretary of State, Department for Business. Innovation and Skills whether any senior staff in (a) his Department and (b) its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments.

NMO does not have any senior staff paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary.

Letter from David Williams:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills asking whether any senior staff in (a) his Department and (b) its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. 85086

Please be advised that no senior staff within the UK Space Agency are paid by means of payments to a limited company.

Letter from David Evans, dated 2 December 2011:

You tabled the following Parliamentary Question on 30 November 2011:

"To ask the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, whether any senior staff in (a) his Department and (b) its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments".

I can advise on behalf of Land Registry, who are an executive agency within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, that we do not pay any of our senior staff by means of payment to a limited company in lieu of salary.

Letter from Vanessa V Lawrence, dated 2 December 2011:

As Director General and Chief Executive of Ordnance Survey, I have been asked to reply to your question with the information on whether any senior staff at Ordnance Survey are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of salary.

I can confirm that there are not and that all senior staff are paid salary or fees through payroll.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 324-5W, on Departmental recruitment, at what cost *(a)* Gatenby Sanderson and *(b)* Odgers Berndtson were employed on each occasion since May 2010. [84753]

Mr Davey: Since May 2010 Human Resources in the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills has employed the executive search companies of both Gatenby Sanderson and Odgers Berndtson once to undertake recruitment services.

Gatenby Sanderson were paid £13,143.63 plus VAT and Odgers Berndtson were paid £16,355 plus VAT.

Directors: Equal Opportunities

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of recent progress on the targets set by Lord Davies of Abersoch relating to boardroom diversity. [84533]

Mr Davey: The monitoring report published by Cranfield university in October, six months after Lord Davies of Abersoch's Review, shows that steady progress is being made towards achieving gender diverse boardrooms. It is encouraging to see that women now make up 14.6% of FTSE 100 and 8.8% of FTSE 250 directors, up from 12.5% and 7.8% respectively in February. In addition there are now just 12 all-male FTSE 100 boards, down from 21 in February.

Government are continuing to work with businesses, regulators, investors and others to ensure the recommendations are implemented effectively.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the letter from the Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs, what the legal basis is for the effect on the Government's policy on the agency

worker regulations of the agreement between the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress of May 2008; and if he will make a statement. [83995]

Mr Davey: Article 5.4 of the agency workers directive allows member states to establish alternative arrangements derogating from the principle of equal treatment on the basis of an agreement concluded between social partners (representatives of employees and employers) at national level. The directive text specifically states that such alternative arrangements may include the provision of a qualifying period for equal treatment.

Foreign Students

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his assessment is of potential changes to the level of education exports as a result of *(a)* student visa changes and *(b)* a rise in international student tuition fees. [80872]

Mr Willetts: Research published by BIS[1] estimates the total value of education exports to the UK at £14.1 billion (in 2008/09) and forecasts that total UK education exports could rise to £17.6 billion in 2015 and £26.6 billion by 2025. The research also attempted to forecast the impact of change in immigration policy and the rise in student fees and suggested that:

The change in immigration policy might result in a decrease of £203 million in 2014/15, £232 million by 2019/20 and £268 million by 2024/25.

The change in fee policy for EU and UK domiciled students studying for undergraduate degrees in England might result in a decrease of £339 million in 2014/15, £672 million by 2019/20 and £844 million by 2024/25. The estimate incorporates the fact that a large proportion of EU students coming to the UK to study would be contributing higher fees than is currently the case.

The combined effect of immigration and tuition fee policy changes might result in a decrease of £542 million in 2014/15, £904 million in 2019/20 and £1,112 million in 2024/25.

Separately, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) published its own impact assessment of the reform of the points-based immigration system in June this year, looking at impact over a shorter time scale. The assessment suggested that:

The level of tuition fee income from international students might reduce by £22.5 million in 2011/12; £30.8 million in 2012/13; £59.4 million in 2013/14 and £57.9 million in 2014/15.

The level of international student expenditure might reduce by £47.7 million in 2011/12; £95.1 million in 2012/13; £166.9 million in 2013/14 and £199.6 million in 2014/15. These figures did not include expenditure by students' dependents, nor do they include the amount generated by students and their dependents through part-time work while in study, which is not the same as the post-study work route.

The aggregate of these changes might result in a decrease of £70.2 million in 2011/12, £125.9 million in 2012/13, £229.3 million in 2013/14 and £257.5 million in 2014/15

The UKBA report also included impact assessment for a number of other items that are not included in the calculation of education exports, such as loss of output from post-study work by students. We have not included detail of these items in this response.

In presenting such estimates, it is important to note that they only represent a snapshot in time and can change. For example, UK work with Brazil on its "Science without Borders" programme could now see an additional 10,000 higher education students coming to study in the UK, under conditions which meet the new immigration policy.

The Government are very clear that we should not be discouraging genuine international students from coming to the UK to study at genuine institutions. We fully appreciate the economic benefits and wider enrichment students bring to the UK. What we are attempting to do is tackle abuse of the system. The aim is to ensure that we get the balance right between providing a user-friendly route for bona fide students and education providers and keeping out those who would seek to abuse the system.

In respect of non-EU students, higher education establishments are free to decide the level at which to set student fees. The Government have never regulated the fees charged by higher education institutions (HEIs) to international students. The market for international students is very competitive. Institutions watch closely what other institutions, in the UK and abroad, are charging when deciding on the level at which to set their own international student fees. It is not in any HEI's interest to price itself out of the market.

[1] London Economics Report "Estimating the value to the UK of Education Exports", published by BIS in June 2011.

Further Education: Admissions

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time students were enrolled in each further education college in England in the academic year (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [84362]

Mr Hayes: I have made data available in the Libraries of the House showing the total number of Government-funded learners participating in further education (Learner Responsive provision) in general further education colleges by provider name and mode of attendance in 2008/09 and 2009/10.

Information on further education and skills participation and achievement by mode of attendance is published in a supplementary table of a quarterly Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirst release/sfr_supplementary_tables/

Higher Education

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to encourage more flexible patterns of study in higher education. [80888]

Mr Willetts: We have consulted on how to encourage more flexible provision through the BIS Technical Consultation 'A new fit for purpose regulatory framework for the higher education sector'. The consultation closed on 27 October. We will give careful consideration to the range of responses and representations that we have received on this particular issue. A formal response to the consultation and to the Higher Education White Paper will both be made in early in 2012.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to implement an assessment framework to measure the number of potential students reached through additional outreach activities undertaken by institutions as part of their access agreements. [81880]

Mr Willetts: This is a matter for the director of fair access. The Office for Fair Access has confirmed that the director makes no assessment of the number of potential students reached through the additional outreach activities undertaken by institutions through their access agreements.

The director of fair access publishes annual monitoring reports setting out the outcomes of the Office for Fair Access' annual monitoring of access agreements. The latest report is for 2009/10 and is available at

http://www.offa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/2011-04+2011-29-OFFA+HEFCE-Access-Agreement-standard-report-web.pdf

In February, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and I wrote to the director of fair access setting out our expectation that institutions should agree a programme of defined progress each year—set within a five-year time frame—in relation to appropriate benchmarks. We asked the director to move away from an assessment of inputs and processes to focus more sharply on the outcomes of outreach and other access activities. Universities will be able to focus their outreach and other activities where they will have the most impact.

Higher Education: Admissions

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UCAS applications have been submitted by residents of each parliamentary constituency in 2011-12 to date; and how many such applications had been submitted by the same time in 2010-11. [83387]

Mr Willetts: The latest information provided by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

UCAS has stated that year-on-year changes for all courses at this early stage in the cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle, and that it is too early in the cycle to extrapolate applicant volumes forward. The second table includes only those applicants who applied to courses with a deadline of 15 October. The main deadline for the majority of UCAS courses is 15 January 2012.

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students outside the Higher Education Funding Council for England allocation of student numbers have enrolled on a higher education course with a *(a)* private company and *(b)* for-profit higher education provider in each of the last five years. [84090]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not hold the data requested. However in 2010, the Higher Education Statistics Agency completed a survey of private providers of higher education based on the 2009/10 academic year. Within the sample of providers there were 38,000 students on higher education courses. The full set of findings is available on the HESA website as follows:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/2090/161/

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students enrolled in designated higher education courses with *(a)* all private higher education providers and *(b)* for-profit higher education providers in each of the last five years; and how many studied (i) at each institution and (ii) in each subject area. [84091]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not hold the data requested. However in 2010, the Higher Education Statistics Agency completed a survey of private providers of higher education based on the 2009/10 academic year. Within the sample of providers there were 38,000 students on higher education courses—these will not all have been studying on designated courses. The full set of findings is available on the HESA website as follows:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/2090/1G1/

The following table shows the numbers of English and EU-domiciled higher education students studying with private providers, who received some financial support via the Student Loans Company.

Academic year	*Number receiving financial support*
2006/07	3,300
2007/08	2,800
2008/09	3,300
2009/10	4,200
2010/11	5,900

Notes:
1. The effective date at which the data are taken is at 31 August at the end of each academic year.
2. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:
Student Loans Company

These figures do not provide total numbers of students enrolled in designated higher education courses at private providers, as not all students obtain student support (for personal eligibility reasons or because they have pursued alternative funding means). As numbers are small, it is not possible to provide a breakdown by institution and course as this could identify individuals.

Higher Education: Fees and Charges

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the performance of the Office for Fair Access in ensuring that any higher education institution charging above £6,000 in tuition fees is linked to local schools and is part of a wider regional access network. [80873]

Mr Willetts: Institutions intending to charge more than the £6,000 basic amount for tuition must first demonstrate to the independent director of fair access what more they will do to attract students from disadvantaged backgrounds. These plans are finalised in approved access agreements.

Ministers at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills wrote to the director of fair access on 10 February 2011 setting out the Government's expectations about how he should approach the approval and monitoring of new access agreements. The guidance set out significantly increased expectations for the priority that institutions should give to fair access and widening participation. In particular, we identified the effectiveness of collaborative working on widening participation, recognising that many institutions were already doing this and that access agreements should build on that work. We also highlighted that such collaboration also encourages the sharing of good practice. Additionally, we suggested that the director would want to take into account the scale and nature of outreach work with schools, colleges and other organisations. The director mirrored Governments' advice in his own guidance to the sector in March on how to develop access agreements.

The director has done an excellent job in very demanding circumstances. I am pleased to see that institutions are pledging to put significantly more resource into access activities (more than £600 million by 2015/16 compared to just over £400 million in 2011/12). Over £100 million of that investment has been earmarked by institutions for outreach activities.

Institutions now have to deliver what they have agreed and make the progress they have indicated.

Higher Education: North-east England

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UCAS applications had been submitted by residents of *(a)* Stockton North constituency, *(b)* the borough of Stockton-on-Tees, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* the North-East in the 2011-12 admissions cycle by 21 November 2011; and how many such applications had been submitted on the same date in the 2010-11 admissions cycle. [84356]

Mr Willetts: The latest information is in the tables and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS).

UCAS has stated that year-on-year changes for all courses at this early stage in the cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle, and that it is too early in the cycle to extrapolate applicant volumes forward. The second table includes only those applicants who applied to courses with a deadline of 15 October. The main deadline for the majority of UCAS courses is 15 January.

All applicants to UCAS as at 21 November by parliamentary constituency/region

Area of domicile	Application cycle 2010-11[1]	2011-12[2]
Stockton North constituency	273	147
The borough of Stockton-on-Tees	588	389
Tees Valley	1,792	1,292
North East	5,392	4,237

[1] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

On time applicants to courses with an 15 October deadline[1] by parliamentary constituency/region

Area of domicile	Application cycle 2010-11[2]	2011-12[3]
Stockton North constituency	32	27
The borough of Stockton-on-Tees	85	84
Tees Valley	254	227
North East	1,131	1,073

[1] These are courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, and courses at Oxbridge.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[3] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UCAS applications had been submitted by residents in *(a)* Darlington constituency, *(b)* the Tees Valley and *(c)* the North-East in the 2011-12 admissions cycle by 21 November 2011; and how many such applications had been submitted on the same date in the 2010-11 admissions cycle. [84486]

Mr Willetts: The latest information is in the tables and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS).

UCAS has stated that year-on-year changes for all has courses at this early stage in the cycle are often different from the position later in the cycle, and that it is too early in the cycle to extrapolate applicant volumes forward. The second table includes only those applicants who applied to courses with a deadline of 15 October. The main deadline for the majority of UCAS courses is 15 January.

All applicants to UCAS as at 21 November by parliamentary constituency/region

Area of domicile	2010-11[1]	Application cycle 2011-12[2]
Darlington constituency	251	204
The Tees Valley	1,792	1,292
The North East	5,392	4,237

[1] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

On time applicants to courses with an 15 October deadline[1] by parliamentary constituency/region

Area of domicile	Application cycle 2010-11[2]	2011-12[3]
Darlington constituency	41	28
The Tees Valley	254	227
The North East	1,131	1,073

[1] These are courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, and courses at Oxbridge.
[2] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2011, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2012.
[3] Applicants applying to enter courses starting in autumn 2012, including those who applied for deferred entry in 2013.

Higher Education: Regulation

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the *(a)* consultation responses and *(b)* Government response to his Department's consultation on a new regulatory framework for the higher education sector. [83455]

Mr Willetts: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 517-18W.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* universities, *(b)* private and for-profit providers and *(c)* students on his proposed changes to the Higher Education Regulatory Framework. [84590]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and I meet regularly with a wide range of current and prospective higher education providers and with representative bodies in the higher education sector. Discussions over proposed changes to the higher education regulatory framework have featured in many of these meetings. A quarterly-updated list of all BIS ministerial meetings with external organisations is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff

In addition, BIS officials held two stakeholder meetings as part of the technical consultation on the proposed regulatory framework, which ran until 27 October. 60 delegates were invited from a wide range of bodies in the higher education sector, including representatives of higher education institutions, further education colleges, alternative providers, mission groups, unions, including the National Union for Students, partner bodies and other representative bodies.

Higher Education: Scholarships

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of university applicants who will apply to the National Scholarship Programme for the academic year 2012-13; and how many applicants he expects to be awarded funding under the programme. [81143]

Mr Willetts: The National Scholarship Programme is designed to help people of all ages whose family income is no greater than £25,000 per annum. Higher education institutions set their own criteria for determining entitlement to an award from among this broad group of people. Institutions will offer a range of support from a menu which includes tuition fee waivers or discounts, subsidised accommodation and other institutional support, and a cash bursary—capped at £1,000.

All institutions that intend to charge more than the basic rate for tuition from 2012 are required to participate in the programme and contribute match funding. Universities are responsible for advertising their criteria and making the awards. The Government have made no estimate of the number of students who are likely to apply to universities.

In the first year, the Government will contribute £50 million towards the NSP with the minimum level for an award set at £3,000 for each eligible full-time student. That would mean around 17,000 students would benefit. Of course the actual number is likely to be larger than this when institutions' match funding is taken into account as well as awards made to students studying part-time. By 2014/15 when the programme is fully operational, the Government's contribution to the National Scholarship Programme will be three times higher and, with match funding, up to 100,000 students a year could be being supported.

Higher Education: Statistics

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Higher Education White Paper, what progress he has made in achieving his aim of reducing the burden of data collection on higher education institutions. [82975]

Mr Willetts: In the White Paper, we made a commitment to work with the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) through its periodical data review process. Reviews have recently been completed for the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey, and the Staff data stream. These reviews will result in changes for 2011/12 and 2012/13 respectively. The Student and Estates data streams are currently under review.

For the longer term, in the HE White Paper BIS asked the Higher Education Better Regulation Group (HEBRG) to progress an exploratory project to transform the information landscape of the HE sector, which will apply a "collect once, use many times" approach to data collection. This expects to report in summer 2012 on the feasibility of redesigning the information landscape to reduce the burden of reporting on higher education providers.

ICT: Training

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department provides to colleges and training providers to train people as computer numerical control operators. [83998]

Mr Hayes: As set out in my Department's Skills Investment Statement 2011-14 (1 December 2011), overall investment in adult further education (FE) and skills will be £3.8 billion in the 2012-13 financial year.

The Skills Funding Agency has responsibility for the funding of post-19 further education and skills training and allocates budgets to individual FE colleges and training organisations, it does not allocate funding at the qualification level.

From the 2011/12 academic year we introduced a single adult skills budget. This will provide FE colleges and training organisations with the flexibility to offer the range and balance of programmes, from basic skills to higher-level skills, in the mode of delivery that will best meet the needs of learners, employers and communities in line with demand.

Industrial Disputes

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many responses from small businesses his Department received to its Resolving Workplace Disputes consultation. [84543]

Mr Davey: This information is available in "Resolving Workplace Disputes: Government response to the consultation" which was published on 23 November 2011, a copy of which has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Manufacturing Fellowships

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many manufacturing fellowships have been taken up *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in the East Midlands and *(c)* in Leicester. [82797]

Mr Willetts: The Department provides funding to the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) which then provide a range of fellowship support.

Between 1997 and 2010, of the 285 fellowship proposals received by EPSRC classified as manufacturing, the following were awarded:

(a) 58 nationally;

(b) two in the east midlands; and

(c) one in Leicester.

In 2011 EPSRC developed a new approach to fellowships. The first call for EPSRC fellowships in manufacturing was announced in March 2011 and EPSRC expects to award the first fellowships in March 2012. EPSRC has received no applications from institutions in the east midlands to date.

Maternity Pay

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on simplifying maternity pay and benefits. [84534]

Mr Davey: BIS officials have been working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions, and other Government Departments, on the development of proposals following on from the closure of the Modern Workplaces consultation on 8 August 2011. The proposals will deliver the Government's commitment to a new system of flexible parental leave to be implemented in April 2015. This will include looking at the current system of maternity, paternity and adoption leave and pay.

Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints his Department has received on decisions of the Office of the Adjudicator for Higher Education *(a)* since May 2010 and *(b)* in each year since its creation. [83937]

Mr Willetts: There are no centrally held statistics on the number of complaints to the Department on decisions made by the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA). The OIA provides an independent service and as such the Government do not review its decisions.

Private Sector: Employment

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which former public sector workers have found employment in the private sector. [83703]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions.

The latest Office for Budget Responsibility forecast is for overall employment to grow by around one million between 2011 and 2017, with a fall of around 700,000 in public sector employment more than offset by a 1.7 million rise in the number employed in the private sector.

No specific assessment has been made of the extent to which workers previously employed in the public sector subsequently move to private sector jobs, although the labour market is highly fluid. In the last year Jobcentre Plus has taken over three million new vacancies and across the labour market as a whole there have been six million moves into work or between jobs.

Most people who lose their job and become unemployed are able to leave quickly, with over half of new JSA claims lasting less than three months and three-quarters lasting less than six months. Help and support is available through Jobcentre Plus for all individuals affected by job losses regardless of the part of the economy in which they were previously employed.

Procurement: EU Action

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what safeguards *(a)* he will encourage his EU counterparts to put in place and *(b)* are already in place to ensure that there is an equitable advertising and procurement policy enforced across all EU member states for Government-backed manufacturing and servicing contracts relating to (i) the emerging off-shore wind industry and (ii) other industries. [83318]

Mr Prisk: EU public procurement is governed by the 2004 European directive which requires all contracts for goods, services and works over certain thresholds to be advertised in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJEU) to allow equitable access to business across the EU. An equivalent directive applies to utilities. The UK Government advertise all central Government tendering opportunities over £10,000 on Contracts Finder. Government will negotiate in the EU for a radical simplification of the relevant directives, to make it easier for businesses to access contracts let by all member states across the EU.

In the UK, my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General announced the outcomes of the Government Growth Review on public procurement on 21 November 2011. Government will now publish medium-term rolling demand pipelines on areas of significant Government spend by April 2012; will engage strategically with industry supply chains to identify the key capabilities needed to meet this demand;

and undertake better pre-procurement engagement with supply chains around sub-contracting opportunities for specific projects. The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills and the Cabinet Office will be working with the wider public sector and regulated industries to apply these reforms beyond central Government.

Professional Organisations

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which systems are in place to monitor the work of chartered institute organisations such as the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. [83932]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

The Privy Council has no monitoring role in respect of Chartered bodies. The effect of a Charter is to free the recipient body from Government control, and the only power retained by the Privy Council is the reactive one of considering and approving amendments proposed by a body to its Charter or by-laws.

The work of the chartered accountancy bodies is monitored by the Professional Oversight Board of the Financial Reporting Council.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 802W, on the Regional Growth Fund, what guidance his Department provides to companies bidding for Regional Growth Funding on the proportion of grant funding that should be spent on due diligence. [82495]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* The Regional Growth Fund (RGF) 'Information for Applicants' document available on the BIS website described the due diligence requirement. However, no guidance was provided on the provided on the proportion of grant funding that should be spent on due diligence as it for beneficiaries to discuss the cost of providing due diligence with practitioners.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had on publishing the precise amounts allocated from the Regional Growth Fund. [84542]

Mr Prisk: I have regular discussions with officials concerning the Regional Growth Fund. In order not to prejudice the commercial interests of bidders conditional allocations are not published. Once due diligence and contracting are complete amounts awarded to individual bidders will be made available.

Research

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the proportion of research and development undertaken nationally which is performed by companies with more than *(a)* 250 and *(b)* 1,000 employees. [84890]

Mr Willetts: The Office for National Statistics collects data on research and development performed in UK businesses. The most recent data was published in November 2011 and relates to research and development (R&D) conducted in 2010.

In 2010, the proportion of R&D performed within businesses with more than *(a)* 250 employees was 79% and *(b)* 1,000 employees was 56%.

Royal Mail: Glasgow

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with Royal Mail on the future of customer service operations at the Glasgow Mail Centre. [83999]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills has not had any discussions with Royal Mail on the future of customer service operations at the Glasgow Mail Centre.

This is an operational matter for Royal Mail and I have therefore asked the chief executive, Moya Greene, to respond directly to the hon. Gentleman. A copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Scholarships

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment and monitoring he is conducting of the qualifying criteria imposed by individual colleges for eligibility for the national scholarship programme; and if he will make a statement. [80524]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England has commissioned CFE Research and Consultancy, an independent research and consultancy body, to undertake an evaluation of the National Scholarship Programme.

The first phase of the project, running until early next year, will look at the set up of the programme, and will include an analysis of the eligibility criteria being adopted by participating universities and colleges.

Skills Funding Agency: Redundancy

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the operational effects of redundancies at the Skills Funding Agency in the next 12 months. [84998]

Mr Hayes: The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) is responsible for allocating funding to further education (FE) colleges and training providers for post 19-education and skills training. The Government's commitment to give more freedom to the FE sector means that the role of the SFA has changed significantly, and it no longer has a planning function. As a result it is now a much smaller organisation than it was 12 months ago.

A new structure has been put in place which will enable the agency to operate more efficiently in its role of ensuring that public funding is allocated efficiently and effectively to meet the priorities set out in "New Challenges, New Chances", which was published by the Government on 1 December.

Space Technology

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what space projects his Department supports; how much has been spent on each project to date; how much he plans to spend on each project in each of the next two years; what further projects are planned in each of the next two years; what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with HM Treasury on space issues; what the outcome was of such discussions; and if he will make a statement. [84553]

Mr Willetts: The UK Space Agency has published a brochure describing the national space programme and projects 2011/12. It is available on the agency web site and explains more about each of the projects listed in the following table. Many are national instrument contributions to European Space Agency or international projects:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/ukspaceagency/publications

The UK also invests directly through the European Space Agency in a broad range of space projects in science, Earth observation, telecommunications and technology. These are listed on the UK Space Agency website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/ukspaceagency/missions

The outcomes have been positive and are reflected in a number of ways. One is the creation of the agency and its spending review settlement for 2011 to 2015. Another has been the additional capital funding allocated in the spring budget and autumn statement of some £35.7 million. This will support the start of a new national space technology programme, national e-infrastructure for space, and a new and novel low cost radar satellite constellation. If successful these programmes could attract over £160 million of private finance. Discussions continue on the space aspects of the next EU multi-year financial perspective, and this will be decided in the timeline of the overall EU budget for 2014 to 2020.

Principal space projects and programmes managed by the UK Space Agency

£ million

Project	*Spend to date (including estimate for 2011/12)*	*Planned 2012/13*	*Planned 2013/14*
JWST Mid IR Instrument	19	1	1
GAIA Data Processing and Analysis Consortium	8	3	3
BepiColombo MIXS instrument	2.5	0.5	0.5
LISA Pathfinder Test Package	5.5	1	1
Swift instrument and operations	10	1	1
STEREO instrument and operations	3	0.5	0.5
Herschel SPIRE instrument and operations	18	1	0.5
Planck instruments and operations	18	1.5	1
Hinode instrument and operations	7	0.5	0.5
Solar Orbiter instruments	3.5	2.5	2.5
Euclid instruments	1	2	2
Future science mission studies	3.5	1	1.5
TechDemoSat-1[2]	2	4	1
UKube-1 and follow-on	0.5	0.5	0.5
ExoMars instruments and other national space exploration	22.5	5.5	5.5
NovaSAR[3]	0	21	0
National Space Technology Programme[4]	2.5	10.5	TBD
Centre of Earth Observation Instrumentation	4	1	TBD

[1] All costs are rounded to nearest £0.5 million.
[2] Technology Strategy Board is lead funder with some funding (£0.5 million) from UK Space Agency.
[3] Fresh funding announced as part of autumn statement.
[4] £10M from UK Space Agency plus additional contributions from TSB, SEEDA and research councils.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support he plans to provide to space exploration in each of the next two years; what recent reports he has received of assistance given to space exploration by the Government of *(a)* the US, *(b)* the Russian Federation and *(c)* each EU member state; and if he will make a statement. [84554]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, provides funding to the United Kingdom Space Agency for space activities. The one exploration project currently being funded through the European Space Agency (ESA) is ExoMars/Aurora. This is a mission to explore the atmosphere and surface of Mars and is scheduled to be launched in two phases in 2016 and 2018. It is funded by the UK at an average of €14 million per year. In addition there is a nationally funded UK activity of £5.5 million per year to provide instruments for the ExoMars mission and to exploit the science and technology of this and other Mars exploration missions.

The United States was scheduled to be a major partner in ExoMars, but the latest report indicates that they are reconsidering their support with a view to a decision in February 2012. I have also been advised that the Russian Federation are also considering whether they can offer support and a position may be known by early 2012.

ESA member states have agreed to support the ESA ExoMars programme as shown in the following table. Most countries also have a national programme to support instruments. Through ESA, member states are studying options for a Mars mission to follow ExoMars with the ultimate goal of returning samples of material

from Mars for study in terrestrial laboratories. Germany, Spain and Portugal are also funding studies with ESA of a proposed robotic lunar lander mission to be launched around 2018.

Participating states	*ExoMars %*	*ExoMars M€ - 2008 ec*
Austria	1.25	12.5
Belgium	2.61	26.1
Denmark	0.55	5.5
France	12.9	129.0
Germany	8.96	89.6
Italy	27.82	278.2
The Netherlands	1.24	12.4
Norway	0.26	2.6
Portugal	0.21	2.1
Spain	5.83	58.3
Sweden	0.62	6.2
Switzerland	4.38	43.8
United Kingdom	16.5	165.0
Canada	1.91	19.1
Total subscribed	85.04	850.4

ExoMars is in a critical position, with European support remaining solid, but with the USA reconsidering its role. Once the USA and Russian Federation views are known, ESA will determine the way forward by agreement of its member states.

Space Technology: Russia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has offered the Russian Federation assistance with the Phobos-Grunt space mission. [84666]

Mr Willetts: Assistance to the Russian Federation has been provided through the European Space Agency (ESA) using capabilities partially supported by the UK as a member of ESA. The Department for Business Innovation and Skills has not offered help directly.

Students: Debts

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average debt that will be accrued by each person who enrols on an access to higher education course in 2013-14 and proceeds to complete a three-year Bachelor's degree. [84318]

Mr Willetts: We estimate, based on figures for the average cost per enrolment of an Access to Higher Education course in 2010/11, that the average loan for such a course undertaken by someone aged 24 or above in 2013/14 will be around £2,500. For those participants who are under 24 such courses will remain grant funded.

For those who subsequently begin a three-year degree course in 2014/15 and take-up both a fee and maintenance loan every year, the additional amount borrowed could on average be around £38,000.

Students: Loans

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the thresholds will be for interest rate increments on the repayment of student loans taken out from the 2012-13 academic year; and if he will make a statement. [83018]

Mr Willetts: Under our proposals, interest on student loans will accrue at (retail prices index) RPI + 3% up until the date when the borrower is due to repay. Full-time students will become liable to repay in the April after they leave their course, and part time students will become liable to repay in the April which falls four years after the start date of their course or the April after they leave their course if that is sooner.

After that date, interest will accrue at a rate of RPI for those earning £21,000 or less. Between £21,000 and £41,000 a linear scale will apply, with interest increasing gradually from RPI to RPI +3%. Those earning £41,000 or more will accrue interest at RPI +3%.

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which designated courses at each higher education provider he has authorised to receive student loan funding in the last year; and how much student loan funding was allocated to each designated course. [84089]

Mr Willetts: Eligible full and part-time higher education courses at publicly-funded educational institutions in the UK are automatically designated for student support. Full-time distance learning courses and eligible higher education courses at private higher education providers may be specifically designated on a course-by-course basis at the discretion of the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

I will place in the Libraries of the House a list showing which courses the Secretary of State specifically designated for student support purposes between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011. This includes postgraduate courses which are designated for the purpose of disabled student allowances only.

I will also place in the Libraries of the House a list showing the total amount of tuition fee loan and maintenance loan that was paid to eligible English domiciled students on specifically designated full-time courses at private higher education providers during the 2010/11 academic year.

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of student loan funding was awarded to students studying at private higher education institutions in each of the last five years. [84092]

Mr Willetts: The proportion of total student loan funding awarded to students studying at private higher education institutions is given in the following table:

Percentage

Academic year:	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*
Maintenance loans	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6

Percentage

Academic year	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*
Fee loans	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
All loans	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Government will publish its response to his Department's consultation entitled Consultation on potential early repayment mechanisms for students loans; and if he will publish a *(a)* summary of consultation responses and *(b)* list of respondents. [84591]

Mr Willetts: The consultation on potential early repayment mechanisms closed on 20 September 2011. The Department will respond in due course. This response will include a summary of all consultation responses and a list of the respondents.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what modelling he plans to undertake to assess the potential effects of his Department's proposals to introduce further education loans for people aged over 24. [85011]

Mr Hayes: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) will publish both a full impact assessment of further education (FE) loans and an equality impact assessments of FE loans, due March 2012.

The impact assessments will be informed by research and analysis commissioned by BIS. This will include the results of the Online Learner Panel Survey carried out by Opinion Panel, TNS-BMRB work with potential FE students to understand how FE loans might affect their decision to study and further research if deemed necessary.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many submissions he has received in respect of his Department's consultation on plans to introduce further education loans for people aged over 24. [85013]

Mr Hayes: The Department received 132 separate responses to the further education (FE) loans consultation. In addition, we received feedback from 117 individual learners through the online learner panel.

The consultation has therefore given us a wide range of views, including from public and private learning providers, sector representatives, small and large businesses and other Government bodies.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he plans to make of the number of women likely to be affected by his Department's proposal to introduce loans for further education study for people aged over 24. [85014]

Mr Hayes: In preparing an initial impact assessment for further education (FE) loans the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has estimated that in 2014/15 (the first full year of further education loans) the number of women learners who would start courses and be eligible for an FE loan would be in the region of 100,000.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has commissioned TNS-BMRB to carry out research with future FE students to understand how FE loans might affect their decision to study. The research will include interviews with people from a range of backgrounds including women, and the results will inform both the full impact assessment of FE loans and an equality impact assessment of FE loans, due to be published in March 2012.

Students: Merseyside

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average student loan taken out in St Helens South and Whiston constituency was in each year since 2005. [80956]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table.

Average student loan paid to those taking out loans, St Helens South and Whiston constituency[1]

	Average loan paid (£)[2]				
Academic year	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Tuition Fee Loan[3]	n/a	2,070	2,480	2,810	2,930
Maintenance Loan (for living costs)	3,240	3,290	3,200	3,160	3,270

[1] Based on address at time of application.
[2] Rounded to nearest £10.
[3] Tuition Fee Loans were available from academic year 2006/07.
Note:
Figures are taken as at 31 August at the end of each academic year.
Source:
Student Loans Company (SLC)

Students: Sponsorship

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 632W, on students: sponsorship, what steps he plans to take in the event that an insufficient number of employers and charities offer sponsorship for university places. [82857]

Mr Willetts: Pursuant to my answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 632W, a response to the Higher Education White Paper will be published in due course. We have asked the Higher Education Funding Council for England for advice on increasing the opportunities to attract employer or charity sponsorship for individual places, provided they do not create a cost liability for Government, in the context of their winter consultation on teaching funding and student number controls for 2013/14 and beyond.

Technology Strategy Board

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value is of unallocated funding overseen by the Technology Strategy Board in each of the next five years. [82776]

Mr Willetts: The Technology Strategy Board's agreed core budget for 2011/12 is £317 million. I cannot be specific on future year allocations, but it will be in the order of £300 million per annum in the current spending review period.

The Technology Strategy Board's current uncommitted funding over the remainder of the spending review period is as follows:

	£ million
2011/12	0
2012/13	106
2013/14	199
2014/15	215

Trade Promotion: Olympic Games 2012

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding has been allocated to the British Business Embassy to be held at Lancaster House during the London 2012 Olympic Games. [82477]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* The estimated budget for the British Business Embassy is £3.28 million, of which UKTI will contribute £2.53 million, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will provide £0.75 million and sponsorship will be sought of £0.6 million.

Training: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the statement on page 57 of the Autumn Statement (Cm 8231) that the Government will provide £4 million to Skills for Logistics to improve training approaches to increase the competitiveness and productivity of the logistics sector; how will these funds be allocated; who can apply for funding; and if he will make a statement. [84938]

Mr Hayes: Skills for Logistics has secured investment funding from the Employer Investment Fund administered by the UK Commission, of up to £4 million to undertake four strands of work over a two-year period. The investment funding is to work with employers to enhance the attractiveness of the sector to young people and individuals currently not employed in the sector. The investment will build skills solutions that ultimately inform and lay the foundations for a Modern Logistics Guild. This investment works with co investment from larger employers who are looking to establish an employer bond which will underwrite loans to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for apprenticeship training.

Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to his autumn statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 808, what representations he received about changes to Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations before making his autumn statement. [84944]

Mr Davey: As part of my ongoing dialogue with business some have raised concerns that the current Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations gold-plate the acquired rights directive and are overly bureaucratic. I have also had formal representations from business concerning the implementation of the directive in other member states. Recognising that this is a complex area of legislation I have launched a call for evidence to gather views from a wide range of stakeholders in considering the case for change.

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to his autumn statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 808, whether he plans to launch a public consultation on reform on the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations. [84945]

Mr Davey: There will be a formal consultation on any possible changes to the current Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations should responses from the call for evidence launched on 23 November 2011 indicate that there is a case for change.

Internships

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of employees who are employed as interns in the *(a)* political, *(b)* legal, *(c)* media, *(d)* fashion and *(e)* financial services sector; [84097]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people undertaking *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid internships; [84098]

(3) what estimate he has made of the average length of an internship; [84099]

(4) what proportion of people who undertook an unpaid internship went on to paid employment at the place of their internship in the latest period for which figures are available. [84100]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not hold this information. The graduate internship market is diverse and we welcome the numerous quality opportunities which both public and private employers provide. We will continue to encourage employers to ensure fair access to internship opportunities by advertising their vacancies openly and transparently, and by providing some form of financial support. The Government are clear that those who are entitled to the minimum wage should receive it.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has any plans to bring forward proposals for a legal definition of an internship. [84101]

Mr Willetts: We have no such plans. Internships are not defined in law: under employment and national minimum wage law, individuals can be employees, self-employed, workers, volunteers or voluntary workers.

An intern's legal status is determined by the nature of the activities they undertake and the relationship with their employer. We have updated our guidance on Business Link and Directgov to provide more clarity on internships for employers and individuals.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what advice he has received on the legality of unpaid internships. [84594]

Mr Willetts: As part of the Government's work on examining options on the treatment of interns in relation to the national minimum wage, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has considered the legal issues associated with unpaid internships. However, advice from Government lawyers is subject to legal professional privilege. The legal advice relating to unpaid internships is no different to any other legal advice in that regard.

The Department has recently updated guidance on Business Link and Directgov to provide more clarity on internships for employers and individuals.

Internships: Redditch

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of people undertaking *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid internships in Redditch. [84824]

Mr Willetts: This Department does not hold this information. The graduate internship market is diverse and we welcome the numerous quality opportunities which both public and private employers provide. We will continue to encourage employers to ensure fair access to internship opportunities by advertising their vacancies openly and transparently, and by providing some form of financial support. The Government are clear that those who are entitled to the minimum wage should receive it.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 6 December 2011

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Overseas Territories: Elections

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the *(a)* Governor and *(b)* government of each Overseas Territory will be inviting election observers to observe forthcoming general elections; and what criteria will be used to select the observers to be invited. [84481]

Mr Bellingham: Election observers have not consistently been invited to observe elections in the Overseas Territories. The responsibility for inviting election observers varies from territory to territory and will depend on the constitution, laws and practice of individual territories. The British Government believe that, in general, it is good practice for open democracies, including the Overseas Territories, to invite election observers. There are a number of organisations that organise election observers including the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Commonwealth, and EU. A number of factors might be expected to inform the identification of suitable election observers including geography, history, financing issues and the capacity of observer organisations to respond. I was pleased that observers from the Caribbean Community and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, including members of this house, observed the elections in British Virgin Islands and that they were impressed with the conduct of the elections.

Foreign Relations: Education

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many education officers his Department employs. [84586]

Mr Bellingham: We do not recognise the term education officer.

Syria: Diplomatic Relations

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what options he is considering in respect of future diplomatic relations with Syria. [84909]

Alistair Burt: We maintain diplomatic relations with Syria and use these to raise our concerns about the current situation in Syria.

Syria: Human Rights

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking with his international counterparts to prevent human rights abuses in Syria. [84911]

Alistair Burt: The UK Government reiterate their condemnation of the widespread violations of human rights which President Assad and his regime have been committing for months.

The UK has been at the forefront of international action to bring a halt to the violence in Syria. The UK co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution mandating the Commission of Inquiry and supported a third Special Session of the Human Rights Council on 2 December, which passed a strong resolution establishing further monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the flow of independent, factual information about the human rights situation in Syria continues. We have tabled a resolution in the UN General Assembly Third Committee supporting the Arab League's efforts and condemning the violence, which passed by an overwhelming majority. We have pushed hard, though so far unsuccessfully, for action in the Security Council. We have worked with EU partners to impose sanctions on the Syrian regime.

We continue to believe that President Assad should step aside and allow the Syrian people to realise their aspirations for greater freedom, dignity and a more open political system. We will continue to take every opportunity to intensify the pressure on the Syrian regime to stop the violence.

Syria: Politics and Government

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of protestors killed and wounded in Syria. [84910]

Alistair Burt: The UN estimates that more than 4,000 people have been killed in Syria since March, including 307 children. It has reported widespread and systematic human rights violations, including murder, torture, illegal detention and rape. Although exact figures are unknown, many reports put the number of the missing and unaccounted for in the thousands.

We have made clear repeatedly our condemnation of the widespread violations of human rights which President Assad and his regime have been committing for months. We continue to believe that President Assad should step aside and allow the Syrian people to realise their aspirations for greater freedom, dignity and a more open political system.

We welcome the publication of the UN Commission of Inquiry's report on human rights violations in Syria. We condemn the Syrian Government's unwillingness to co-operate with the Commission. The UK co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution mandating the Commission of Inquiry and supported a third Special Session of the Human Rights Council on 2 December, which passed a strong resolution establishing further monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the flow of independent, factual information about the human rights situation in Syria continues.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether any senior staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85073]

Mr Paterson: No senior staff in my Department, or in its non-departmental public bodies, are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary.

SCOTLAND

Aircraft Carriers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the construction of Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers. [84680]

David Mundell: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland, has regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of defence-related matters affecting Scotland, including the construction of the Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers. Good progress continues to be made on the carrier project and last month the Secretary of State visited the Babcock site at Rosyth to inspect work which is under way.

Departmental Equality

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent steps his Department has taken to increase equality among its staff; and at what cost. [84673]

David Mundell: All staff in the Scotland Office are on loan or secondment, mainly from the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice; both bodies provide a full range of initiatives specific to equality including running equality events, supporting internal staff networks and providing support on corporate equality programmes. Separate figures on costs are not available.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many unique hits his Department's website has received in each of the last 12 months. [84676]

David Mundell: The information requested is shown in the following table.

	Unique hits
October 2011	3,773
September 2011	3,302
August 2011	2,602
July 2011	2,647
June 2011	3,833
May 2011	3,802
April 2011	2,857
March 2011	3,444
February 2011	2,887
January 2011	2,849
December 2010	4,218
November 2010	4,132

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what social media his Department operates. [84681]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office operates a Twitter account.

Departmental Older Workers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 65 his Department employs. [84682]

David Mundell: All staff in the Scotland Office are on loan or secondment, mainly from the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice who hold individual staff personnel records, including details such as dates of birth. The Scotland Office does not hold a record of dates of birth of staff.

Departmental Written Questions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of questions for written answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the present session of Parliament. [84677]

David Mundell: In the present session of Parliament, the Scotland Office answered 182 (94%) of named-day parliamentary questions on the due date.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85065]

David Mundell: The following table shows the number of named day PQs that received a substantive answer within five working days of the date specified:

2011	*Named day PQs*
June	8
July	14
August	—
September	6
October	6
November	7
Total number	41
Total percentage	100

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his policy is on mandatory drug tests for the staff of his Department. [84675]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not employ staff directly. All staff working in the office are on loan or secondment from other Government bodies, mainly the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice, who remain the principal employers. As such, staff remain on the terms and conditions of their parent bodies. This includes policies relating to substance misuse, conduct and discipline.

Drugs: Misuse

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff of his Department have been disciplined due to drug offences in the last 12 months. [84834]

David Mundell: No staff have been disciplined due to drug offences in the last 12 months.

Economic Growth

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent steps he has taken to support the economy of Scotland. [84678]

David Mundell: On 17 November, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland announced the membership of the new Scottish Business Board to raise issues and help provide solutions on the Scottish economy. This new Board has the expertise and knowledge to make a real difference to the way we tackle the issues facing the Scottish economy and get the most both from and for our companies across Scotland. The Secretary of State also led the largest ever trade mission to Brazil at the end of November. This trade mission allowed companies from a wide range of Scottish sectors to showcase their services and establish links in a high-growth market which has become increasingly important to the global economy.

Jobcentre Plus

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many jobcentres in Scotland he has visited on departmental business in the last 12 months. [84679]

David Mundell: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland has visited the job centre in Edinburgh on departmental business in the last 12 months. He has visited the job centre in Galashiels, Scotland as a constituency MP in the last 12 months. In addition, he met with members of the senior management team of JobCentre Plus on departmental business on eight separate occasions in the last 12 months.

Lockerbie: Bombings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Libya on the status of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi. [84668]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has had no such discussions with the Government of Libya.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails he has received in respect of shale gas extraction in Scotland in the last 12 months. [84674]

David Mundell: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland has not received any letters or e-mails in respect of shale gas extraction in Scotland in the last 12 months.

Olympic Games 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on the effect on Scotland of the London 2012 Olympics. [84663]

David Mundell: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland has regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), on a range of issues including making the most of the opportunities that the London 2012 Olympics will bring to Scotland.

Renewable Energy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had on renewable energy development in Scotland. [84684]

David Mundell: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland and I meet regularly with ministerial colleagues, the Scottish Government and the business community to discuss growth of all sectors of the economy. Last month the Secretary of State and I convened the Scottish Business Board which brought together business leaders from across a range of sectors, including those with an interest in development of renewable energy, to discuss measures to break down barriers to growth.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Crimes of Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Kate Green: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the total value was of grants awarded by the Government Equalities Office through the Special Fund for local assault services in financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [81248]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are committed to tackling sexual violence and all forms of violence against women and girls.

Victims of rape and sexual assault need support within and beyond the criminal justice system.

Support is provided through three main pillars:

specialist sexual violence support services provided by civil society organisations;

sexual assault referral centres; and

independent sexual violence advisers.

The Home Office has allocated £28 million of funding until 2015 for related specialist services in addition to the specialist sexual violence support services, including funding to nearly double the number of specialist independent advisers.

The Government Equalities Office, as a stand alone Department in the financial year 2010-11, contributed an additional £1 million into a combined fund for sexual violence voluntary sector, managed by the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85047]

Lynne Featherstone: From 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office became part of the Home Office. Information relating to the Government Equalities Office will be included in the reply of the Minister for Immigration.

Social Justice Committee: Ministers

Michael Dugher: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many meetings of the Social Justice Committee Ministers in her Department have attended since its establishment. [85341]

Lynne Featherstone: From 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office became part of the Home Office. Information relating to the Government Equalities Office will be included in the reply of the Minister for Immigration.

TRANSPORT

Air Transport Auxiliary

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures her Department is taking to encourage former members of the Air Transport Auxiliary to apply for the Air Transport Auxiliary Veterans Badge. [85320]

Mrs Villiers: Air Transport Auxiliary veterans who have not been awarded a Veterans Badge can find details of how to apply on the Directgov website. Badges were awarded to all surviving veterans known to the ATA Association when the scheme was launched in 2008; it was widely publicised at that time.

Bypasses: Kegworth

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress has been made on the Kegworth bypass project; and if she will make a statement. [85171]

Mike Penning: In October 2010, the Department for Transport set out the outcomes of the Government's 2010 comprehensive spending review, publishing details of its investment decisions for major road projects on the strategic road network.

Plans to provide a bypass of Kegworth were not included among the schemes identified, and the Highways Agency is therefore not developing such a proposal at this time.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on the use of automatic number plate recognition at the Dartford crossing. [84815]

Mike Penning: The Department received a number of representations on the use of automatic number place recognition (ANPR) during the recently held consultation to raise the charges at the Dartford-Thurrock river crossing. These primarily focused on using ANPR for the delivery of the free-flow project and the ability of ANPR to capture foreign vehicles that use the crossing. The proposals for an ANPR system are currently being considered as part of the design stage for a free-flow charging scheme at the crossing.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts her Department has awarded directly to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; and if she will make a statement. [75167]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has directly awarded the following number of contracts to small, medium and large businesses in each month since May 2010:

	Small businesses	*Medium businesses*	*Large businesses*	*Value (£)*
2010				
May	9	13	69	33,842,021
June	2	16	77	35,937,683
July	6	13	62	18,967,821
August	2	7	64	20,756,405
September	3	9	66	14,236,977
October	7	8	61	14,370,826
November	4	13	81	18,312,478
December	3	14	72	20,854,239
2011				
January	4	9	46	93,978,185
February	3	3	25	11,876,693
March	5	6	37	12,332,948
April	3	4	42	34,137,500
May	2	11	67	86,986,108
June	2	38	193	165,457,099
July	3	42	190	157,940,426
August	2	69	157	35,240,150
September	2	58	157	81,021,994
October	2	20	64	2,630,139

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Preston

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had on the future of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency office in Preston; and whether the potential closure of the office or redundancies were raised. [83936]

Mike Penning: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is reviewing all aspects of its business, including the delivery of services through its local offices. The aim of this is to look at ways in which the customer experience can be improved while delivering increased efficiency. The results of this exercise will be announced in due course.

M4: Repairs and Maintenance

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what improvements are planned for the M4 in each of the next five years; and if she will estimate the *(a)* cost of the improvements and *(b)* number of jobs that will be created. [84722]

Mike Penning: In April 2011 I published the timetable for the 14 Highways Agency major road schemes due to start construction by 2015; this included the M4 Junctions 19-20 and M5 Junctions 15-17 managed motorway scheme, on which work is scheduled to begin between January and March 2012.

The cost of this scheme is estimated to be £88.6 million, and it is expected to provide hundreds of jobs during its construction.

There are no current plans to develop other major improvement schemes for the M4 at this time. However, the Department is working with the Welsh Assembly Government on their proposal to improve the M4 around Newport.

Railways Stations: Standards

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when she expects to announce the successful bids for the Access for All Mid-Tier programme for railway stations; and if she will make a statement; [81198]

(2) what the reasons are for the time taken to announce the successful bids to the Access for All Mid-Tier programme for railway stations; and if she will make a statement. [81199]

Norman Baker: The successful bids for the Access for All mid-tier programme for railway stations were announced today.

Roads: Rural Areas

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will amend the rules governing the deployment of brown signs on major trunk roads in rural areas in order to assist small businesses. [84854]

Mike Penning: A working group is currently reviewing the existing criteria for the provision of brown tourist signs on the strategic and local network, to ensure that it meets the needs of road users and gives the tourist industry a helping hand at the same time. It is anticipated that revised guidelines will be available by mid 2012.

Guide Dogs: Passports

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will discuss with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs the issue of travel restrictions for guide dogs with pet passports on cruise ships travelling within the EU. [84012]

Mike Penning: The UK is working toward the implementation of EU regulation 1177/2010 concerning the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway which will apply in the UK from 18 December 2012. Provided the ship operator has been notified in advance, the EU regulation requires a ship operator to accommodate an assistance dog with the passenger on a cruise ship where the port of departure is in the EU.

Department for Transport officials are in discussion with officials in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to ensure the UK's implementation of the EU regulation and national rules relating to the pet travel scheme are compatible.

Wheels to Work Schemes

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people received support through the wheels to work scheme in each of the last five financial years. [84839]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* As Wheels to Work schemes are local in nature, information on how many people are supported through the schemes is not held centrally. Funding is also provided from a variety of sources, including the Local Sustainable Transport Fund administered by my Department, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Rural Development Programme for England.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Sales

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the extension of licences for the sale of alcohol for the tourism and hospitality industry during the London 2012 Olympic games. [85163]

John Penrose: The Department has been in discussion with the Home Office about extended licensing hours during the Olympic and Paralympic games. In deciding whether to exercise her powers under section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department, has to consider matters of security, policing, public order and public safety for these events.

BBC: Redundancy Pay

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will discuss with the BBC Trust the issue of clawback of severance pay or compensation for BBC staff made redundant who are re-employed as *(a)* BBC staff and *(b)* consultants within two years. [84013]

Mr Vaizey: The employment of staff and consultants is a matter for the BBC and there is no provision for Government to intervene. I do not intend to raise this with the BBC Trust.

Broadband

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the willingness of commercial companies to roll out broadband services of speeds of 80 to 100 MBits in the 10 proposed super-connected cities. [84726]

Mr Vaizey: In support of this initiative, BT and Virgin Media have committed to strengthening their networks in the winning cities and will be offering their broadband services with 80-100 Mbps potential.

It is also possible that other suppliers may make similar proposals.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of demand for broadband services of 80 to 100 MBits in the 10 proposed super-connected cities. [84727]

Mr Vaizey: It is expected that local authorities will assess demand for unmet broadband services as part of their bid.

Broadband Delivery UK: Manpower

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent staff Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) *(a)* has and *(b)* will have in each year of the spending review period; and what the budget of BDUK (i) is for 2011-12 and (ii) will be for each year of that period. [84724]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) has 9.6 full-time equivalent staff for the year 2011-12. The staff resource needed for future years has not yet been determined.

BDUK's budget for each of the four years from 2011-12 to 2014-15 is shown in the following table:

	Budget (£ million)
2011-12	92
2012-13	106
2013-14	165
2014-15	165

The budget profile is currently under review and will take account of the Broadband Delivery Programme Delivery Model (published in May 2011 and available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/8482.aspx

the progress that BDUK has made in developing a Broadband Framework for suppliers; and the procurements undertaken by the initial broadband pilot projects and other local areas.

Festivals and Special Occasions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department took to *(a)* celebrate and *(b)* promote (i) St George's Day, (ii) St Andrew's Day and (iii) St Patrick's Day in the last 12 months. [85158]

John Penrose: To celebrate St George's Day, St Andrew's Day and St Patrick's Day, the Department flew the St George's Cross, the Saltire and the Union flag respectively. English Heritage, one of the Department's arm's length bodies, marked St George's day in 2011 with four separate events that were attended by around 16,000 visitors. This included the annual St George's Festival at Wrest park, which welcomed 8,500 visitors over three days.

Film

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received as part of his Department's film policy review; when his Department will respond; and if he will make a statement. [85313]

Mr Vaizey: Lord Smith, who is leading the independent film policy review panel, will report to Ministers before the end of this year or early next year and the Government response will follow later. As part of the consultation process, Lord Smith's panel received over 300 submissions of evidence from the public and industry, and have conducted more than 70 meetings with a range of stakeholders.

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received on support for the UK animation industry; and if he will make a statement. [85314]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has received representations on support for the British animation industry from:

The Deputy Prime Minister;
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills;
Mark Field MP;
Animation UK;
Aardman Animations Ltd;
Hands Up Productions Ltd;
Q Pootle 5 Ltd; and
two members of the public.

We are giving careful and early consideration to the issues raised. In addition, the animation sector is represented on the Creative Industries Council. Creative Industry Council members instigate industry-led approaches to boosting the growth and competitiveness of the creative industries with Government facilitating and removing barriers where appropriate.

Paralympic Games 2012

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received on a legacy following the London 2012 Olympics for Paralympic sports. [84876]

Hugh Robertson: The Department regularly receives letters relating to the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Government are committed to leaving a strong and lasting legacy for disabled people all over the UK. Plans to harness the inspirational power of the games in

order to accelerate progress towards achieving disability equality were set out in "London 2012: A Legacy for Disabled People", published by the Office for Disability Issues in April 2011

http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/odi-projects/2012-legacy.php

As part of Places People Play, the Government's £136 million lottery-funded sports legacy programme for the London Olympics and Paralympics, £8 million has been allocated by Sport England for a programme specifically targeted at inspiring more disabled people to take part in sport and providing more opportunities for participation.

There is a whole new approach through the School Games to significantly increase opportunities for disabled pupils to compete on a local, regional and national level. The School Games will include sports such as Wheelchair Basketball, Table Cricket and Polybat. Also, for the first time, through the Taking Part Survey, we will specifically measure participation rates of disabled children in competitive sport.

JUSTICE

Birmingham Prison

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of monitoring the HM Prison Birmingham contract over the next 15 years. [84329]

Mr Blunt: The authority has budgeted for costs totalling £3,631,000 over the 15-year period of the contract to provide a controller and team for HMP Birmingham. This is the nominal cost for providing this resource and includes including an annual allowance for inflation based on average weekly earnings (AWE) in accordance with Treasury Green Book.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the monetary value was of G4S's bid to operate HM Prison Birmingham; [84330]

(2) what notional costs were added in respect of *(a)* the in-house bid and *(b)* the G4S bid to operate HM Prison Birmingham; [84331]

(3) what the monetary value was of the in-house bid to operate HM Prison Birmingham *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding notional costs. [84333]

Mr Blunt: The net present cost (NPC) value of the G4S contract to operate and maintain HMP Birmingham is £316,500,000 over 15 years.

We do not recognise what is meant by the term 'notional' in this context and therefore can only advise that no 'notional' costs were asked for.

Children: Abduction

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to review the law on the abduction of children by their parents. [84111]

Mr Djanogly: There are no plans at present for the UK to review the current law on international parental child abduction.

County Courts

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish the Government's response to his Department's consultation on solving disputes in the county courts; on what date it was initially scheduled for publication; and what the reason is for the time taken to publish the response. [84688]

Mr Djanogly: The Government expect the consultation response to be published in the new year. The response was initially scheduled for publication in October but this was postponed due to ongoing discussions within Government.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with which organisations his Department had discussions on or about the subject matter of its consultation on solving disputes in the county courts *(a)* before and *(b)* after the consultation closed. [84689]

Mr Djanogly: The Department has engaged in discussions with the following organisations during the course of this year, on subjects covered by the Solving Disputes consultation:

Association of British Insurers
Civil Mediation Council
Forum of Insurance Lawyers
Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
Motor Accident Solicitors Society
The Law Society
The British Bankers Association
Citizens Advice
Her Majesties' Association of District Judges
R3 (Association of Business Recovery Professionals)
Civil Courts Users Association
Office of Fair Trade
Shergroup
The Land Registry
Centre for Peaceful Solutions and Brent Mediation Centre
Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution
Law Works Mediation
National Health Service Litigation Authority
Medical Protection Society
Weightmans Solicitors.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many submissions his Department received to its consultation on solving disputes in the county courts. [84690]

Mr Djanogly: The Department received 319 responses to the consultation.

Defamation

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals on defamation. [84459]

Mr Djanogly: We are currently giving careful consideration to the recommendations of the parliamentary Joint Committee on the draft Defamation Bill and to

the views expressed by respondents to our public consultation, and will seek to introduce a substantive Defamation Bill as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Departmental Advisory Services

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contribution his Department has made to the cross-government review of advice funding announced in July 2011. [84324]

Mr Djanogly: The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner, who has responsibility for civil society, formally announced the cross-government review of free advice services on 21 November 2011. I can confirm that my Department is working closely with the Cabinet Office to support this work.

Departmental Civil Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83892]

Mr Djanogly: None to the Department's knowledge.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84240]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has outsourced the following services in the last five years.

	Suppliers	*Service*
2007	Steria, Tibco and Oracle	ICT software support
2008	Information Initiatives, O2, Cable and Wireless, Global Crossing, Polo Lake, VP Treen, Vodaphone, Informatica, HP	ICT consultancy, software support, managed services
2009	DHL	National prisoner retail
	Microsoft, SDL Trados, Information Techology, Kineo LLP, IBM, Mouchel QAS, Oracle	Managed services and software support
2010	HP, Bottomline, XMA, Oracle, Bantec, Steria, MEGA, SAS, Accenture, Savvis	Managed services, software support and hosting
2011	G4S	Custodial Services—HMP Birmingham
		Custodial Services—HMP Featherstone II
	O2, Gartner, Amtec, Alliantist, Mouchel, Ninian Solutions, BT, HFX, Bottomline, Detca, Oracle, PC Solutions, RSJ UK	Software support, managed services and hosting

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [82994]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Since May 2010, my Department has published *(a)* 17 leaflets at a total cost of £10,740.57; *(b)* 27 posters at a total cost of £2,683.73; and *(c)* 61 reports at a total cost of £87,991.73. A breakdown of all three categories is contained in the following table.

Title	*Designed by*	*Design costs (£)*	*Published by*	*Publishing costs (£)*
Deputy Factsheets	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	Prison industries	3,303.00
LPA120	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	Prison industries	929.00
OPG120	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	Prison industries	789.00
Security Group (for Home Office Exhibition)	Zephyr Design	445.00	Zephyr Design	980.00
Belief in change	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	Internal	0.00
Competition for Custodial Services and Works	Zephyr Design	735.00	Zephyr Design	1,396.12
Rolls Building	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	In-house print service	696.00
Small Claims Telephone Mediation	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	Internal	0.00
Introducing our Ministers	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	In-house print service	250.00
Security Awareness	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	In-house print service	204.00
About MOJ	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	Internal	0.00
Public Sector Equality Duty	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	In-house print service	409.80

Title	Designed by	Design costs (£)	Published by	Publishing costs (£)
Support Disability in the Workplace	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	In-house print service	204.90
Transforming Justice	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	In-house print service	150.00
Staff apprenticeship	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	In-house print service	30.00
Greater London Family Panel	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	In-house print service	218.75
Managing our money together	MOJ in-house design team	0.00	Online only	0.00
Total		1,180.00		9,560.57

Crown Dependencies: Elections

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Governor of each of the Crown Dependencies will be inviting election observers to observe forthcoming general elections. [84480]

Mr Djanogly: General elections were held in the Isle of Man in September of this year, and in Jersey in October. Alderney and Sark held general elections in 2010 and Guernsey's general election will take place in April 2012.

As self-governing Dependencies of the Crown, it is for the Government authorities in each jurisdiction to determine whether they wish to invite election observers to observe their general elections.

Miscarriages of Justice

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has considered bringing forward legislative proposals to change the procedures of the Criminal Cases Review Commission to enable the correction of more miscarriages of justice. [84852]

Mr Djanogly: I am not considering bringing forward legislative proposals to change the procedures of the CCRC at this time.

Offenders: Crimes of Violence

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants charged with *(a)* violent and *(b)* sexual offences who are (i) on remand awaiting trial, (ii) in the community awaiting trial without conditions and (iii) in the community awaiting trial with conditions. [85203]

Mr Blunt: As at 30 September 2011 there were 2,446 prisoners on remand awaiting trial for violence against the person offences, and 779 on remand awaiting trial for sexual offences. Equivalent figures for the numbers in the community awaiting trial on conditional or unconditional bail are not held centrally, and could be derived only by checking individual level court records. This would incur disproportionate cost.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Personal Injury

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason his Department's round-table consultation meeting on personal injury matters scheduled for 1 November 2011 was postponed; and on what date it is to be rescheduled. [84691]

Mr Djanogly: The round-table discussion was postponed as the publication of the Government's response to 'Solving Disputes in the County Courts' has been delayed. The meeting will be rescheduled for the new year, once the consultation response has been published.

Prisoners: Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the number of offenders in prisons in England and Wales diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. [84738]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply, on behalf of the Department of Health.

The information requested is not collected centrally.

Offenders are all screened on arrival in prison by a trained nurse or trained officer to find out what their health needs are and get them the right treatment. People at risk of having a mental health problem, or vulnerable to suicide, are referred for a mental health assessment.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders have been prosecuted for assault on a member of prison staff in each of the last five years. [84736]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) maintains no central record of victims' professions and they are unable to identify, from their central database, those assault cases involving prison staff. This data could be obtained only by examining all of the CPS's files, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Metal Theft

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 580W, on prosecutions: metals, what the amount of each of the fines imposed following conviction under the Scrap Metals Dealers Act 1964 was in 2010. [84604]

Mr Blunt: Pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 580W, the amount of each fine imposed under the Scrap Metals Dealers Act 1964 in England and Wales, in 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Total amount of fines issued under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964[1] England and Wales, 2010[2,3]

Number of offenders fined	*Fine amount (£)*	*Total amount imposed (£)*
1	50	50
1	100	100
1	190	190
2	200	400
2	400	800
1	500	500
1	750	750
1	1,000	1,000
10	—	3,790

[1] Includes: Offences by dealers in scrap metal and similar goods and in marine stores.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how long on average it took the Tribunals Service to administer a First-Tier Tribunal social security and child support appeal in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011; [84562]

(2) how long on average the Tribunals Service took to administer a First-Tier Tribunal social security and child support appeal in respect of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* employment and support allowance, *(c)* income support, *(d)* jobseeker's allowance and *(e)* tax credits in 2010; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for 2011; [84644]

(3) how many disability living allowance appeals were heard by the Tribunals Service from appellants in *(a)* England, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* Coventry in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010 and (iii) 2011; [84645]

(4) what proportion of appeals to the Tribunals Service regarding *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* employment and support allowance, *(c)* income support, *(d)* jobseeker's allowance and *(e)* tax credit were successful in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010 and (iii) 2011. [84646]

Mr Djanogly: Appeals against decisions made by the Department for Work and Pensions on an individual's entitlement to social security and child support are heard by the First-Tier Tribunal (Social Security and Child Support). The data are provided broken down by financial year, which is more readily available for the SSCS tribunal.

(1) The average time from receipt of an appeal to disposal by the tribunal was *(a)* 14.3 weeks in 2009-10, *(b)* 19.5 weeks in 2010-11, and *(c)* 24 weeks between 1 April 2011 and 31 October (the latest date for which information is available). These figures include cases that were decided by a tribunal hearing and those that were disposed of by other means (such as being withdrawn, superseded or struck out).

(2) The following table gives the average time taken from receipt of an appeal to disposal by the tribunal in the financial year of 2010-11 and from 1 April 2011 to 31 October (the latest date for which information is available).

Appeal time from receipt to disposal

Weeks

	2010-11	*1 April to 31 October 2011*
Disability living allowance	22.5	28.3
Employment and support allowance	19.4	24
Income support	19.8	25.7
Jobseeker's allowance	12.6	14.1
Tax credits	15.4	17.9

(3) Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service does not hold data specific to the west midlands or Coventry. However, the majority of disability living allowance (DLA) appeals made by people in the west midlands are heard in the hearing venues in Birmingham, Coventry, Hereford, Stoke, Wolverhampton, Worcester and Kidderminster although these venues also hear appeals from other nearby locations. The majority of DLA appeals made by people in Coventry are heard in the hearing venue in Coventry although this venue also hears appeals from other nearby locations.

The following table shows the number of DLA appeals disposed of at all hearing venues in England; hearing venues in the west midlands; and the hearing venue in Coventry in the financial years of 2009-10, 2010-11 and from 1 April 2011 to 31 October (the latest date for which information is available). The table also shows the number of DLA appeals disposed of at tribunal hearing in these venues during these time periods.

DLA appeal disposals

	2009-10	*2010-11*	*1 April to 31 October 2011*
Total DLA appeals disposed of			
England	50,900	50,500	38,900
West midlands	4,800	4,800	3,800
Coventry	690	510	450
DLA appeals disposed of at hearing			
England	40,900	39,400	31,600
West midlands	4,000	3,700	3,000
Coventry	550	380	340

(4) The following table shows the proportion of appeals regarding *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* employment and support allowance, *(c)* income support, *(d)* jobseeker's allowance and *(e)* tax credit which were successful in the financial years of 2009-10, 2010-11 and from 1 April 2011 to 31 October (the latest date for which information is available).

Successful appeals

Percentage

	2009-10	*2010-11*	*1 April to 31 October 2011*
Disability living allowance	41	38	39
Employment and support allowance	37	37	38

Successful appeals

	2009-10	2010-11	Percentage 1 April to 31 October 2011
Income support	29	28	27
Jobseeker's allowance	18	13	15
Tax credits	15	10	10

In response to significant and unforecast increases in appeals to the SSCS Tribunal, Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service has increased its hearing capacity. Total disposals by the SSCS Tribunal in the period between April and October 2011 were 21% up on the same period in 2010, and 66% higher than in the same seven months in 2009. Disposals have exceeded appeals received in each of the last 10 months.

Treasure Trove: Coroners

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the cost to local authorities of local coroners holding inquests on cases of treasure in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and if he will make a statement. [84061]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not held centrally. To obtain this information would be at disproportionate cost as it would require every coroner in England and Wales to interrogate the accounts sent to local authorities for inquests into treasure finds for 2009 and 2010.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the contribution of Lord McNally of 23 November 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 11605, on the Public Bodies Bill [*Lords*], if he will establish the post of Coroner for Treasure; and if he will make a statement. [84155]

Mr Djanogly: Implementation of the Coroner for Treasure is dependent on funding being available for that post. On 17 November 2011, the Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport my hon. Friend the Member for Wantage (Mr Vaizey), who has responsibility for communications and creative industries, informed interested parties that funding is not currently available for the post. However, the matter will be reviewed as part of the implementation of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.

Trials: Disclosure of Information

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department takes to identify occasions when court hearings take place that are not formally listed; what guidance his Department has issued to courts on listing cases that will not be held in public; and if he will make a statement. [84572]

Mr Djanogly: Listing is a judicial responsibility and function. HMCTS provides guidance to the administration on listing, but it is a matter for the judiciary how cases are assigned and listed in court, which includes those that are held in chambers and not accessible by the public.

All criminal cases are formally listed and all hearings are recorded at the courthouse through internal systems and databases, which collect this information centrally for HMCTS. Daily court lists are published but hearings such as breaches and execution of bench warrants are occasionally at short notice. Therefore it is not always possible to republish the list.

In civil and family cases, the only cases are not published on the court lists are those cases that are emergency applications, which come in at short notice. Such hearings are recorded on the cause list by the court clerk.

All cases are listed depending on their priority, regardless of whether they are to be in public or in private. Published court lists include information relating to both public and private hearings, although where there are sensitive cases to be heard in private, the full names of the parties may be withheld in order to protect the vulnerable. This includes adoption and care proceedings involving children.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Training

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Attorney-General how many prosecutors in the Crown Prosecution Service have received domestic violence training in each year since 2008. [84460]

The Attorney-General: Due to the volume of domestic violence prosecutions, all prosecutors and associate prosecutors were trained between 2005 and 2008—approximately 4,500 members of staff.

From April 2008 to end of November 2011, 676 new staff have completed domestic violence training. A breakdown of yearly uptake is provided in the following table:

Prosecutor or associate prosecutors trained in DV

	Number
2011 (January to November)	115
2010	187
2009	144
2008	230

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General whether any senior staff in *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their Executive agencies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85087]

The Solicitor-General: No senior staff in the Law Officers' Departments or Executive agency are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary. The Law Officers' Departments do not have any policies governing payment by such a method.

Departmental Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Attorney-General what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85052]

The Attorney-General: Information on the number of named-day written questions received by the Attorney-General's Office over the last six months is contained in the following table:

2011	Number of written questions received for answer on a named day	Number answered on the named day	Proportion on time (%)
July	4	3	75
June	9	9	100
August	0	—	—
September	2	2	100
October	5	4	80
November	2	2	100
Total	22	20	91

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

DEFENCE

Redundancy

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many civilian staff will lose their jobs following the announcement on 10 November 2011 regarding the restructuring of regional divisions; [83352]

(2) how many civilian jobs will be lost as a result of the closure of Headquarters 2nd Division at *(a)* Edinburgh, *(b)* Aldershot and *(c)* Shrewsbury. [83361]

Nick Harvey: This restructuring will remove 440 civilian posts from our regional force structures at both division and brigade levels, and their supporting units.

The following civilian posts will be cut in each of the divisional headquarters. These losses, which were included in the reduction target announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review White Paper, will be offset by the creation of a number of posts in the new Support Command headquarters in Aldershot.

Headquarters	Civilian job increases/decreases
HQ 2nd Division Edinburgh—disbands	-103
HQ 4th Division Aldershot—disbands	-82
HQ 5th Division Shrewsbury—disbands	-63
HQ Support Command Aldershot—forms	+104

Civilian staff declared surplus will be placed in the Department's redeployment pool and given assistance to find an alternative post.

EU Defence Policy

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to joining *(a)* the European Air Transport Fleet Programme Arrangement and *(b)* the Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices Theatre Exploitation Laboratory Technical Arrangement. [84364]

Peter Luff: We continue to monitor the progress of the European Air Transport Fleet Programme and keep our current position of non-membership under review.

We support the work undertaken through the Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED) Theatre Exploitation Laboratory Technical Arrangement, including through sharing information on the UK's established C-IED capability, but we do not intend to join the programme.

Military Bases: Scotland

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which bases in Scotland are currently undergoing a capacity review; what the scope of the review is; and what the time scale is for completion of the review. [83691]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence is currently planning to look at the potential capacity, utilisation and condition or disposal opportunities of a number of sites across the UK. It is expected this work will be undertaken in the first half of 2012, so at present, it is too early to say which sites in Scotland will be included.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian personnel are employed at the Eastriggs Storage Depot in Dumfriesshire; [84260]

(2) how much his Department has invested in the Eastriggs Storage Depot in Dumfriesshire in each of the last five years; [84261]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Scotland office on the future of the Eastriggs Storage Depot in Dumfriesshire; [84262]

(4) how many *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian personnel were stationed at the Eastriggs Storage Depot in Dumfriesshire in each year since 1997; [84263]

(5) if he will estimate the annual cost of wages for service and civilian personnel based at *(a)* the Eastriggs Storage Depot in Dumfriesshire and *(b)* the Longtown Facility in Cumbria. [84277]

Peter Luff: The Eastriggs storage depot is no longer used. In October 2010, all personnel and operations were moved to the nearby Defence Munitions site at Longtown. Since 2004, the number of personnel based at Eastriggs storage depot were:

	Number	
	Military personnel	Civilian personnel
2004	[1]—	41
2005	[1]—	44
2006	[1]—	43
2007	0	44
2008	0	34
2009	0	28
2010	0	5
2011	0	0

[1] Not held.

Records of military and civilian manpower numbers at Eastriggs storage depot prior to 2007, and 2004 respectively are not available. There have been no staff permanently based at Eastriggs since October 2010.

For financial year 2011-12, the cost of wages for Ministry of Defence civilians and military personnel based at Defence Munitions Longtown is approximately £7 million.

Investment over each of the last five years in the Eastriggs storage depot was:

Financial year	Expenditure (£)
2006-07	244,000
2007-08	320,000
2008-09	992,000
2009-10	120,000
2010-11	63,000

No decisions have been made regarding the future of Eastriggs storage depot. No discussions have recently taken place with the Scotland Office specifically in respect of the future of the site.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have *(a)* applied for asylum and been refused, *(b)* appealed to the Immigration Appeals Tribunal against such refusal and *(c)* had their appeal refused by the Immigration Appeals Tribunal; and of those numbers how many her Department estimates have (i) left the jurisdiction voluntarily and (ii) been subject to enforced removal in each of the last five years. [85207]

Damian Green: The following tables show the number of people who applied for asylum in a given year and how many subsequently:

(a) were refused asylum and, of which, how many have had a removal or voluntary departure;

(b) appealed to the Immigration Appeals Tribunal/Tribunals Service Immigration and Asylum against such refusal and, of which, how many have had a removal or voluntary departure; and

(c) had their appeal refused and, of which, how many have had a removal or voluntary departure.

Information on whether the departure was voluntary or an enforced removal is not available; instead the departure type has been split into available categories of 'enforced removals and notified voluntary departures' and 'assisted voluntary return and other voluntary departures'.

Data on asylum and removal outcomes are available in the asylum table as.06 of the quarterly Immigration Statistics. The latest release: "Immigration Statistics July - September 2011" is available in the Library of the House and the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Outcome analysis of asylum applications, as at May 2011

		Refused asylum, HP or DL (a) (i) and (ii)			
	Total main applicants	*Refused asylum, HP or DL*	*Removals and voluntary departures*	*Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures*	*Assisted voluntary returns and other voluntary departures*
2006	23,608	16,415	4,722	3,752	970
2007	23,431	15,203	4,179	3,238	941
2008	25,932	15,035	3,998	3,013	985
2009	24,487	15,211	3,518	2,583	935
2010	17,916	11,304	2,907	2,117	790

		Appeals lodged (b) (i) and (ii)			
	Total main applicants	*Appeals lodged*	*Removals and voluntary departures*	*Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures*	*Assisted voluntary returns and other voluntary departures*
2006	23,608	11,519	2,247	1,544	703
2007	23,431	10,462	1,975	1,300	675
2008	25,932	11,794	1,738	1,088	650
2009	24,487	12,794	1,705	1,051	654
2010	17,916	8,943	1,391	919	472

		Dismissed appeals (c) (i) and (ii)			
	Total main applicants	*Dismissed appeals*	*Removals and voluntary departures*	*Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures*	*Assisted voluntary returns and other voluntary departures*
2006	23,608	8,375	2,138	1,481	657
2007	23,431	7,421	1,796	1,208	588
2008	25,932	7,963	1,592	1,014	578
2009	24,487	8,252	1,583	988	595
2010	17,916	5,899	1,273	869	404

Notes:

1. Data relating to applications or decisions made in 2010 and 2011 are provisional figures.
2. Statistics compiled on 9 May 2011. Further initial decisions, appeals and removals and voluntary departures will have occurred since this time.
3. Year relates to the period in which the application was made; the initial decisions and appeals within a 'year of application' may have been made in a later year.
4. Refusals exclude withdrawn applications.
5. Excludes outcomes of cases reconsidered prior to appeal. Excludes cases which were successful after appeal to the Upper Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber.
6. 'Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures' figures include asylum removals performed by UK Border Agency officers using in-country powers of removal and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.
7. Since October 2006, 'enforced removals and notified voluntary departures' include people leaving under facilitated return schemes.
8. 'Assisted voluntary returns' may include some on-entry cases and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.
9. 'Other voluntary departures' are people who it has been established left without informing the immigration authorities.

Asylum: Finance

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what emergency facilities are available for users of the section 4 payment card whose weekly resources have been exceeded. [84276]

Damian Green: There are no such facilities. Supported persons are expected to live within the prescribed weekly credit limit of £35.39 per person.

Civil Disorder: Compensation

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many claims were received by each police authority in England under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 between August and October 2011; and what the amount of those claims was. [84429]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* Applications have been made directly to police authorities and there is no requirement for them to provide this information to the Home Office.

Therefore, the precise figures of claims received and values will be held locally by each police authority.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the number of claims under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 that have been made by each police authority in relation to the civil disorder of August 2011; [84252]

(2) how many claims have been paid by police authorities under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 in relation to the civil disorder of August 2011 as at 25 November 2011; [84253]

(3) when she expects all final claims for compensation under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 for the civil disorder of August 2011 to be assessed by police authorities. [84254]

Nick Herbert: Applications have been made directly to police authorities and there is no requirement for them to provide this information to the Home Office.

Therefore, the precise figures of claims received will be held locally by each police authority.

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any senior staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if she will publish her policy on such payments. [85076]

Damian Green: Senior staff in the Home Office and its agencies are contracted to work a set number of hours and are paid accordingly via the departmental pay roll. This applies to those on permanent contracts and fixed term appointments. Senior staff outside these arrangements are appointed through frameworks and agreements as determined by the Government Procurement Service. Full details of all such framework agreements can be found via the following link:

http://www.buyingsolutions.gov.uk/frameworks/list.html

This also applies to senior staff in the Department's non-departmental public bodies (NDBPS).

Detention Centres

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding the UK Border Agency has allocated to investment in pre-departure accommodation since May 2010; and at which locations. [82048]

Damian Green: Since we ended the detention of children for immigration purposes in removal centres, we have introduced a new approach to enforce the departure of families who have to leave and refuse to do so voluntarily. Cedars pre-departure accommodation at Pease Pottage near Crawley in West Sussex is part of that approach and is only used as a last resort following advice from the independent Family Returns Panel.

The full cost of the refurbishment of the building and grounds at Cedars to provide the accommodation is approximately £5.2 million, which includes all building works, consultancy, furniture and fittings and security and IT.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Anne Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that genuine students from overseas will be able to continue to study theology at private colleges. [85197]

Damian Green: My officials continue to discuss implementation of the student visa rules with theological colleges. The Government have been clear that genuine high-quality educational institutions have nothing to fear from our reforms of student visas, which ensure that we can continue to attract the best students whose main motivation is study. No permanent limit has been placed on student visas.

Harassment: Surveillance

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions where complaints received by each police force in England and Wales about harassment or stalking the suspect was the subject of a police surveillance operation in 2010. [81894]

Lynne Featherstone: The information requested is not recorded centrally.

Stalking behaviour can be prosecuted under The Protection from Harassment Act 1997. My Department, working with the Ministry of Justice, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) continues to keep the effectiveness of this legislation under review. The Home Office has recently launched a consultation seeking views on how we can better protect victims of stalking.

Hillsborough Independent Panel

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the statement of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 668-70, on Hillsborough disaster, how many documents relating to the Hillsborough disaster have so far been released to the Hillsborough independent panel. [84563]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* I am happy to confirm that all documents held by Government Departments have been released to the Hillsborough independent panel. The Government fully support the work of the independent panel and it is for the panel to take forward its work in relation to those documents.

Human Trafficking: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the extent of human trafficking in Northern Ireland. [84850]

Damian Green: During the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2011 there were 1,481 referrals to the National Referral Mechanism, of these 35 (2%) related to Northern Ireland and comprised 14 nationalities. 24 of these referrals were from three nationalities: China (17), Nigeria (5) and Romania (2).

Illegal Immigrants

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people in the United Kingdom who have no right to be within the jurisdiction. [85208]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is not able to provide the information requested. It is not possible to accurately quantify the number of individuals currently in the UK who have no right to be within the jurisdiction, as some deliberately evade immigration control in order to remain in the country illegally.

The e-Borders system enables checks to be made on individuals arriving or exiting the country but is not yet fully rolled out. The Government are committed to ensuring that the number of UK ports undertaking exit checks is increased to ensure a more complete travel history is recorded on passengers.

The UK Border Agency has established local immigration teams across the UK to gather intelligence, tackle illegal working, and track down and detain immigration offenders. The focus of these teams include the prevention and disruption of illegal activity and the arrest and removal of offenders.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested as illegal workers during searches of business premises in each of the last three years; and how many such people were removed from the UK in each region in each year. [85300]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency record data relating to offenders arrested on the National Operations Database. From information held we can state that the following numbers of people were arrested for offences related specifically to illegal working visits:

	Number
2008-09	5,804
2009-10	4,288
2010-11	4,186
Total	14,278

All data are sourced from the National Operations Database (NOD) system. The NOD is a management information tool and data from it are not quality-assured under national statistics protocols. Figures provided from the NOD do not constitute part of national statistics and should be treated as provisional.

However, to determine which of these individuals arrested have been removed would only be possible by examination of individual records which would exceed the cost threshold.

Immigration Controls

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking in respect of her Department's performance in arresting and detaining those who do not comply with immigration controls. [85206]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's enforcement operation remains focused on arresting, detaining and removing illegal migrants. Between 1 January and 30 September 2011, 26,962 illegal migrants in the UK were removed or voluntarily departed.

The agency has taken further steps to improve the information we have on the whereabouts of illegal migrants. In particular, to make it easier for members of the public to submit information, a new web form was introduced on the UK Border Agency website on 2 November 2011, which sets out clearly the information needed in order for the agency to act. We are currently developing this form further to enhance the quality of the information we receive from the public, part of our ongoing commitment to improve our capability in this area.

The agency is working to improve its performance in achieving removals of illegal migrants. There is a current focus on refinement of our contact management techniques to improve the voluntary return rate of illegal migrants. Additionally, steps are being taken to enhance absconder tracing and streamline processes to improve the success rate of enforcement operations. The agency will continue to focus on maximising productivity from all its enforcement assets including reporting centres, arrest teams, immigration removal centres and charter flights.

Immigration: Europe

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures her Department has taken to share criminal records data with other EU member states in order to exclude EEA nationals from entry to the UK under the provisions of Regulation 19 (1B) of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006; and if she will make a statement. [84632]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* Regulation 19(1 B) which came into effect on 1 June 2009 enables the Secretary of State for the Home Department to exclude an EEA national, or member of his/her family, where she considers that exclusion is justified on the grounds of public policy, public security or public health. In reaching a decision the Secretary of State is obliged to take a number of factors into account. These include: the decision must be proportionate, it

must be based on the personal conduct of the individual concerned and that conduct must represent a genuine, present and sufficiently serious threat affecting one of the fundamental interests of society. The fact that a person may have a previous criminal conviction does not of itself justify an exclusion decision.

Where the United Kingdom receives information, such as arrest warrants, from foreign law enforcement agencies which indicates that individuals might be present in, or coming to, the United Kingdom and could present a risk to public protection, we will include that information on the watchlists. Where an individual is extradited from the United Kingdom, or is deported as a result of their criminal record, such information may also be recorded on the watchlists.

The United Kingdom also exchanges data with other EU member states under Council Decision 2005/876/JHA on the exchange of information extracted from the criminal record. This means that where an EU national is subject to criminal proceedings here, the United Kingdom may ask their country of nationality for details of their previous criminal record. Such information may then be used in the criminal justice process.

When the United Kingdom connects to the new second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) in 2015 we will receive more information about individuals wanted on European arrest warrants and we anticipate stopping more EEA nationals at our borders as a result.

Kidnapping: Children

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of children abducted from the UK since 2006; and how many such abductions were carried out by the child's parents. [84110]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Ministry of Justice.

The Home Office has responsibility for prevention of the criminal offence of child abduction. The Home Office statistics for the number of children reported to police as abducted within England and Wales in each financial year for which statistics are available from 2006 are shown in the table; children are those under 16. Home Office statistics do not show whether or not the abduction was by a parent, nor whether the abducted child was removed from the UK, or not. Some of these offences may have an international element involving a parent and may therefore also appear in the international parental child abduction statistics as follows.

Police recorded offences of child abduction 2006-07 to 2010-11, England and Wales. Each offence relates to one child.

	Number
2006-07	696
2007-08	595
2008-09	567
2009-10	559
2010-11	552

The collection of police recorded statistics for Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for the devolved Administrations.

Statistics on international parental child abductions are collected by the number of cases, where a case can involve more than one child; cases under the 1980 Hague convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction relate to children under 16.

The number of outgoing international parental child abduction cases since 2006 from the UK to countries that have ratified or acceded to the 1980 Hague convention are as follows, by calendar year:

International parental child abduction. Each case may involve more than one child

	Outgoing from England and Wales	Outgoing from Scotland	Outgoing from Northern Ireland
			Cases
2006	153	9	6
2007	183	10	5
2008	181	9	12
2009	193	15	7
2010	158	10	8

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has responsibility for international parental child abduction from all parts of the UK to countries that have not ratified or acceded to the 1980 Hague convention or where the convention is not in force between the UK and the country in question. Children are those under 16. The FCO may also provide consular support in outgoing Hague convention country cases. Cases by financial year dealt with by the FCO to Hague convention and non-convention countries between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2011 are shown in the table. Where a case was to a Hague convention country, that case will also appear in the statistics for the relevant part of the UK.

International parental child abduction FCO cases (outgoing from the UK) Each case may involve more than one child.

	Cases
2006-07	265
2007-08	249
2008-09	196
2009-10	238
2010-11	264

The Government have not made an overall estimate of the number of child abductions within the UK or from the UK to countries abroad. Statistics can only cover reported cases.

Metropolitan Police: Manpower

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in each basic command unit of the Metropolitan police force on *(a)* 31 March 2010, *(b)* 30 September 2010 and *(c)* 31 March 2011; and if she will make a statement. [84750]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* Available data on police officer strength for the Metropolitan police force by basic command unit, as at 31 March 2010 and 31 March 2011, are given in the following table.

Information on police officer strength relating to 30 September 2010 is not available centrally.

The latest published police personnel statistics relate to 31 March 2011 and were published in July 2011. They are available online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Police officer strength[1] by basic command unit (BCU), Metropolitan police, as at 31 March 2010 and 2011

BCU	31 March 2010	31 March 2011
Barking and Dagenham	448	443
Barnet	596	585
Bexley	406	400
Brent	712	682
Bromley	524	511
Camden	889	831
City of Westminster	1,656	1,586
Croydon	755	736
Ealing	728	697
Enfield	601	580
Greenwich	711	669
Hackney	784	771
Hammersmith and Fulham	600	574
Haringey	734	708
Harrow	404	392
Havering	395	387
Hillingdon	526	540
Hounslow	540	522
Islington	719	713
Kensington and Chelsea	579	565
Kingston upon Thames	337	321
Lambeth	1,042	1,004
Lewisham	691	657
Merton	396	392
Newham	826	805
Redbridge	502	486
Richmond upon Thames	335	307
Southwark	964	933
Sutton	356	344
Tower Hamlets	829	793
Waltham Forest	578	556
Wandsworth	619	608
Heathrow	461	435
Central Services	12,126	11,907

[1] These are full-time equivalents figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures include those officers on career breaks.

Police: Bournemouth

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* special constables and *(b)* community support officers are operating in Bournemouth. [84574]

Nick Herbert: The latest available information shows that there were 79 community support officers in post on 31 March 2010 in the Bournemouth and Poole basic command unit (BCU). This is a full-time equivalent figure that has been rounded to the nearest whole number; it includes those community support officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Figures for special constables are not available centrally for this BCU.

Dorset police force was restructured and BCUs were redefined during 2010-11 and, as a result, data for Bournemouth and Poole are not available for 31 March 2011.

Police: Crimes of Violence

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been stabbed during the course of their duties in each of the last five years. [84739]

Nick Herbert: The requested information is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Police: South Wales

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police officers were employed by South Wales Police in each of the last five years; [84715]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of police to be employed by South Wales Police in each of the next five years. [84716]

Nick Herbert: It is a matter for the chief constable and the police authority in each force to determine the number of police officers that are deployed within the available resource.

The latest available information shows the number of police officers in South Wales police force between 2007 and 2011 (full-time equivalent) is set out in the following table:

Number of police officers in South Wales police force between 2007 and 2011[1]

As at 31 March each year	Number
2007	3,336
2008	3,244
2009	3,146
2010	3,148
2011	3,100

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Police: Surveillance

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will collect information on the deployment of undercover officers by police forces in England and Wales over the last 10 years. [77037]

Nick Herbert: The decision on whether to deploy covert undercover officers is an operational matter for individual law enforcement agencies. The chief surveillance commissioner has the statutory responsibility for the oversight of whether police use of this technique is in accordance with the law. His key findings and broad statistics are published in annual reports which are laid before Parliament and are available in the House Library.

Stalking: Homicide

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases which included a stalking-related murder have been referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission since 2009. [78996]

Nick Herbert: This is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). However, it does not hold the specific data requested.

The IPCC is responsible for the annual publication of statistics relating to deaths during or following police contact. The most recent report is available on the IPCC website at:

www.ipcc.gov.uk

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration: Finance

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the decision to reallocate the fund which had been earmarked for the carbon capture and storage competition. [84891]

Charles Hendry: My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have discussed financing of carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects and £1 billion remains available. The detailed profile of spend will be determined by the projects selected and when they require funding.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) when he was informed of the decision by HM Treasury to reallocate the fund earmarked for the carbon capture and storage competition; [84892]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the decision to reallocate the fund earmarked for the carbon capture and storage competition on the time taken to develop a demonstrator project. [84894]

Charles Hendry: £1 billion remains available to support CCS projects. I expect CCS projects to come forward in this spending review period and for some expenditure to be committed as part of that process. The detailed profile of spend will be determined by the projects selected and when they require funding.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with representatives of industry involved in development of carbon capture and storage projects on the availability and timetable for a competition supporting a demonstration project. [84893]

Charles Hendry: My colleagues and I, at ministerial and official level, meet regularly with industry representatives to discuss the CCS demonstration programme.

On 16 December we are holding an industry day to provide further information on the CCS programme, to which this Government have already committed £1 billion of capital funding. Sponsors and developers of proposed CCS projects, power generators, CO_2 transport infrastructure providers, oil and gas field operators and independent operators, and CO_2 capture technology providers are invited to contact the Office of Carbon Capture and Storage if they wish to attend.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether any of the resources reallocated from the carbon capture and storage competition fund will be directed to low-carbon projects. [84895]

Charles Hendry: The £1 billion allocated for CCS projects remains available to support CCS projects.

Climate Change: Africa

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of his recently announced funding to tackle climate change in Africa he proposes will come from *(a)* the Department for International Development and *(b)* existing funding allocated as official development assistance. [85323]

Gregory Barker: I will be announcing a package of support to help Africa adapt to the impacts of climate change and move to low carbon development paths in Durban on 6 December. The package is funded out of the UK's £2.9 billion International Climate Fund, which was announced in the 2010 spending review and is all classified as official development assistance. The fund consists of £1.8 billion from the Department for International Development, £1 billion from the Department of Energy and Climate Change and £0.1 billion from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of his recently announced funding for climate change finance in Africa *(a)* has already been committed and *(b)* is new funding commitments. [85324]

Gregory Barker: I will be announcing a package of support to help Africa adapt to the impacts of climate change and move to low carbon development paths in Durban on 6 December. The package is all funded out of an existing funding commitment—the UK's £2.9 billion International Climate Fund, which was announced in the 2010 spending review.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change through which *(a)* Departments, *(b)* funds and *(c)* programmes he proposes that his recently announced funding to tackle climate change in Africa will be delivered. [85325]

Gregory Barker: I will announce the full details of the package of support to help Africa adapt to the impacts of climate change and move to low carbon development paths in Durban on 6 December. The package is funded out of the UK's £2.9 billion International Climate Fund and will be drawn from the budgets of the Department for International Development and the Department of Energy and Climate Change through the UK's International Climate Fund.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the recently announced aid funding to tackle climate change in Africa is additional to the funding already *(a)* committed as fast-start funding and *(b)* announced for

climate change by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for International Development. [85326]

Gregory Barker: I will announce the full details of the package of support to help Africa adapt to the impacts of climate change and move to low carbon development paths in Durban on 6 December. The package is funded out of the UK's £2.9 billion International Climate Fund, which was announced in the 2010 spending review.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to his recent announcement of climate change funding for Africa, from which Departments' budgets he proposes such funding will be drawn. [85327]

Gregory Barker: I will be announcing a package of support to help Africa adapt to the impacts of climate change and move to low carbon development paths in Durban on 6 December. The funding will be drawn from the budgets of the Department for International Development and the Department of Energy and Climate Change through the UK's International Climate Fund.

Diesel Fuel: Prices

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on *(a)* diesel pump prices in England and *(b)* how such prices compare with those in other European countries; and if he will make a statement. [85303]

Charles Hendry: The Department has received a number of representations on diesel prices and how pump prices compared with those in other European countries.

UK pre-tax petrol and diesel prices are among the lowest in Europe.

The Government are aware of the significant impacts high oil prices are having on consumers, which is why the autumn statement document announced that the fuel duty increase of 3.02p/l that was expected to take place in January 2012 has been deferred to August 2012. In addition, the 2011-12 inflation only increase in fuel duty that was planned for August 2012 has been cancelled.

Energy: Meters

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how his Department proposes to take account of consumers' experience of the installation of smart meters when developing the smart metering installation code of practice; [83622]

(2) if he proposes that the smart metering installation code of practice will include measures to prevent doorstep selling of utilities during the installation of smart meters. [83623]

Charles Hendry: Electricity and gas suppliers have developed a draft smart metering installation code of practice, which they published for consultation in August 2011. They are now considering responses. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has consulted on the draft licence conditions that will formally underpin an industry code. These draft conditions include rules on sales of goods and services during the smart meter installation visit and arrangements for updating a code in the light of, among other things, consumer experience during the roll-out. We will publish our response in the new year.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to expand the energy grid network to ensure people in rural areas who do not receive gas from the grid are able to participate in the smart meter roll out. [84999]

Charles Hendry: Customers who receive only electricity from the energy grid network will be offered an electricity smart meter and in-home display by their energy supplier, and so will be able to participate in, and benefit from, the smart meter roll-out.

Ofgem is responsible for regulating the extension of the gas grid and has encouraged the larger gas distribution networks to extend the grid to fuel poor households and homes within the priority group for the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target. In total up to 20,000 households could be connected under this scheme over the current price control period (2008-13).

Fuel Poverty

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely level of support for energy efficiency programmes for households in fuel poverty from 2013 onwards. [84169]

Gregory Barker: Government are currently consulting on the Green Deal framework which will be in place from late 2012 and will enable households to access energy efficiency improvements at no upfront cost. This includes a new Energy Company Obligation (ECO), worth £1.3 billion per year, providing extra support where it is most needed.

Under the ECO 'Affordable Warmth obligation', we expect energy suppliers to invest around £350 million per year in providing heating and insulation measures for vulnerable households on low incomes at greatest risk of fuel poverty. We anticipate that the rest of ECO will support energy efficiency improvements in more difficult and expensive to treat properties, whatever the income or circumstances of the householder, through a 'Carbon Reduction obligation'. We are consulting specifically on expected models for "roll-out", to ensure all households stand to benefit, including those in the poorest communities.

Fuel Poverty: Winter Deaths

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women over the age of 65 years who have died as a result of being unable to heat their home due to fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [R] [84549]

Gregory Barker: The specific data requested are not recorded.

However, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) measures the number of excess winter deaths each year. During the 2010-11 winter, of the 25,700 excess winter

deaths recorded by ONS in England and Wales, around 8,800 were recorded among men aged 65 and over, with around 12,900 recorded among women aged 65 and over.

Fuel Poverty: North York Moors

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in fuel poverty in the North York Moors National Park. [85383]

Gregory Barker: DECC do not calculate fuel poverty at this geographical level. The estimated number of fuel poor households in 2009 in local authorities which broadly cover the National Park are as follows:

Redcar and Cleveland: 14,800 households (25% of households in Redcar and Cleveland)

Scarborough: 13,200 households (26%)

Ryedale: 6,500 households (28%).

Inverkip Power Station

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the capacity and total output from Inverkip power station was during its lifetime; and what were the costs per MWh of this output. [84424]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not hold data on the capacity, output or costs per MWh of output of Inverkip power station. However, a Scottish Power (the owners of Inverkip) press release on the redevelopment of the site states the capacity was 2,028 MW:

http://www.scottishpower.com/PressReleases_1891.htm

Nuclear Power

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the European Commission on allowing nuclear power to be recognised as a renewable source of energy; and if he will make a statement. [83612]

Charles Hendry: The Government believe that nuclear power is an important low carbon source of energy and should be a part of the UK's future energy mix, but accept that nuclear power should be considered as a low carbon rather than a renewable source of energy. Therefore, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), has had no discussions with the European Commission on allowing nuclear power to be recognised as a renewable source of energy. The UK's vision for a low carbon future sees a diverse mix of low carbon energy sources contributing to our power supply including both renewables and nuclear power.

Oil: Canada

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the quantity of oil used in the UK which is derived from Canadian tar sands. [84713]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* Trade data on the amount of oil that is derived from tar sands are not collected in National or International Statistics.

In 2010, the UK imported 272,000 tonnes of crude oil from Canada, and one tonne of petroleum products. In total, these imports account for 0.4% of the oil imported into the UK.

Solar Power

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has made an assessment of any change in household energy consumption following the installation of solar photovoltaic systems. [83905]

Gregory Barker: We have no robust quantitative evidence from the FITs scheme to date about behavioural change in households that install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* individual solar photovoltaic installations and *(b)* community-owned solar photovoltaic schemes will be eligible to receive support through the proposed feed-in tariff with contract for difference. [85187]

Gregory Barker: Eligible individual and community-owned renewable electricity generating schemes below 50 kW can currently receive the small scale feed-in tariff, while those between 50 kW and 5 MW are able to choose support under either the small scale feed-in tariff or the renewables obligation. Work is currently under way to determine the appropriate eligibility criteria for the feed-in tariff with Contract for Difference scheme and how it should interact with other support mechanisms. Further details will be published in quarter 1 next year.

Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the operation of *(a)* section 1 and *(b)* section 2 of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 since July 2010; what representations he has received since that month on the operation of the Act; and what responses he gave to such representations. [R] [84484]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The Government announced a review of the definition of fuel poverty at the spending review in October 2010. The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change appointed Professor Hills to carry out a review of the current definition of fuel poverty (as set out in section 1 of the Act and under the strategy required in section 2) in March 2011.

Professor Hills ran a call for evidence on the definition that received views from a variety of stakeholders including Fuel Poverty Advisory Group and the All Party Parliamentary Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Group.

Professor Hills published his interim report in October 2011. The final report is due to be presented to Government in early 2012, when we will respond formally.

World War II: Medals

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage former Bevin Boys to apply for the Bevin Boys Veterans Badge. [85321]

Charles Hendry: To date, the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA), acting on behalf of DECC, have issued just under 5,000 Bevin Boys Veterans Badges to former Bevin Boys and their widows, where their husbands passed away after the Badge was announced on 20 June 2007.

At the time the Badge was announced and when the first Badges were issued in March 2008 there was significant publicity both nationally and regionally by DECC and the Bevin Boys Association. Subsequently many local councils have carried out regional advertising campaigns to encourage all former veterans, including the Bevin Boys, to apply for Badges as part of their Veterans Day celebrations.

Full details of the Badge, the eligibility criteria and the application process appear on both the DECC and SPVA website.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Business: Government Assistance

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the adequacy of support available from Jobcentre Plus for people wishing to start their own business who are in receipt of employment and support allowance in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* the UK. [85218]

Chris Grayling: While people on employment and support allowance (ESA) are not eligible for the new enterprise allowance, Jobcentre Plus advisers can signpost claimants who are interested in self-employment to other sources of support such as Enterprise Clubs, where available, and on-line support for new businesses, including mentoring. ESA claimants can also access the Work Programme at a time that is right for them, where providers are free to deliver the right support for the individual.

People on ESA with more complex support needs that cannot be met through other employment support provision have access, via their disability employment adviser, to Work Choice which can provide the right support to help them find work or self-employment.

Child Support Agency: Prosecutions

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to widening the powers of the Child Support Agency to allow it to prosecute for non-payment of regular maintenance. [82912]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what consideration he has given to widening the powers of the Child Support Agency to allow it to prosecute for non-payment of regular maintenance. [82912]

The Child Support Agency already has a wide range of enforcement powers for the purposes of securing child maintenance from non-resident parents, who would otherwise fail to pay. Money can be taken directly from a non-resident parent's earnings if the non-resident parent is employed, money can be taken directly from a non-resident parent's bank or building society account, or action can be taken through the courts.

The most serious forms of enforcement are commitment to prison or disqualification from driving. The decision whether to implement, and the length of the order, is at the discretion of a Magistrates' Court (or Sheriff in Scotland) where they are satisfied that a non-resident parent has "wilfully refused or culpably neglected" to pay child maintenance—but this is not a criminal sanction.

There are no plans at present to widen the enforcement powers of the Child Support Agency.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Construction: Employment

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of jobs lost in the construction industry from sub-contracting businesses in each of the last three years. [84457]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not collected in the form requested. However, the change in construction employment in each of the last three years for which information is available is shown in the following table. The table covers all constructing firms, both main contractors and subcontractors.

	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Jobs (thousand)				
Workforce jobs	2,304	2,240	2,158	2,093
Employee jobs	1,361	1,363	1,281	1,231
Self-employed jobs	933	874	872	858
Change (thousand)				
Workforce jobs	—	-64	-82	-65
Employee jobs	—	2	-82	-50
Self-employed jobs	—	-59	-2	-14
Change (percentage)				
Workforce jobs	—	-2.8	-3.7	-3.0
Employee jobs	—	0.1	-6.0	-3.9

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Self-employed jobs	—	-6.3	-0.2	-1.6

Source:
ONS, Workforce Jobs series, United Kingdom

Advisory Services

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contribution his Department has made to the cross-Government review of advice funding announced in July 2011. [84337]

Chris Grayling: DWP officials met with Cabinet Office officials to discuss the review of advice funding, in order to outline the range and scope of advisory and referral services that the Department provides.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible. [83781]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Since 1998 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) occupies the majority of its accommodation under a private finance initiative (PFI) known as the Prime contract. Under the terms of this PFI the Department leases back fully serviced accommodation from its private sector partner, Telereal Trillium. This covers a variety of facilities including, where appropriate, the provision of catering services which is delivered through Telereal Trillium's service partner, Compass Group UK. Compass undertakes all catering activity including food procurement. Compass has confirmed that all the liquid egg supplied on the DWP catering contract is sourced from hens from an enriched cage system.

In line with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs guidance, DWP reports on how the Government Buying Standards criteria are being met. One of the criterion that will feature in future reports is around how eggs are sourced. This report will feature in periodic updates on the DWP public website—the following link gives the latest details:

www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/gbs-food-catering.pdf

This link advises on DWP's commitment and that we are working closely with Telereal Trillium/Compass to maximize compliance with this commitment. For example, ensuring this subject features in regular meetings/discussions with Telereal Trillium/Compass and receiving updates/progress on compliance. In addition, Compass regularly meets with Telereal Trillium encouraging initiatives to promote local food producers.

(b) Non-departmental public bodies that share accommodation with the DWP on Prime contract sites are included in the response at *(a)* above. Of the remaining non-departmental public bodies which have catering facilities and are not covered by the Prime contract, the Independent Living Fund (2006), Remploy and The Pensions Advisory Service have confirmed that they do not procure whole or liquefied eggs. The Health and Safety Executive only use fresh eggs all of which are sourced in the UK.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [83782]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Since 1998 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) occupies the majority of its accommodation under a private finance initiative (PFI) known as the Prime contract. Under the terms of this PFI the Department leases back fully serviced accommodation from its private sector partner, Telereal Trillium. This covers a variety of facilities including, where appropriate, the provision of catering services which is delivered through Telereal Trillium's service partner, Compass Group UK. Compass undertakes all catering activity including food procurement.

Compass has confirmed that between April and November 2011 the percentage of food procured from UK food producers is 24%. With regard to the sourcing from UK producers, Compass' figures have been determined as follows: they have defined UK as guaranteed UK provenance which can be fully traced back to the source, i.e. food that has been grown and harvested or born, bred and slaughtered in the UK. Therefore, they have not included any products that even though may have been produced or manufactured in the UK, are of mixed origin. In addition Compass has confirmed the following:

100% of fresh beef is UK sourced

100% of fresh pork joints is UK sourced

100% of fresh milk is both UK sourced and Red Tractor

100% of shell eggs are UK sourced and Lion marked

All potatoes and root vegetables are sourced from UK when in season.

(b) Non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) that share accommodation with the DWP on Prime contract sites are included in the response at *(a)* above. For those NDPBs not covered by the Prime contract, none directly source food, e.g. The Pension Advisory Service and the Independent Living Fund (ILF) only occasionally buy food and snacks on an ad hoc basis in small quantities from local food retailers and as such unable to verify the source of food producers. Given the low expenditure, e.g. ILF spent £1,400 in the last calendar year, it would seem disproportionate for local caterers to provide this information to these NDPBs. Remploy has indicated that for their multiple sites their canteens are operated by local third-party organisations. The Health and Safety Executive's HQ at Bootle has a similar PFI contract to DWP, covering accommodation and all services. HSE has no direct management responsibility for the caterers and the contract does not specify how supplies should be sourced. The supplier, Baxter Storey, sources their catering supplies from Brake Bros whenever possible; however they cannot assess what proportion of supplies is sourced at home or abroad.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83783]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) Since 1998, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) occupies the majority of its accommodation under a private finance initiative (PFI) known as the PRIME contract. Under the terms of this PFI, the Department leases back fully serviced accommodation from its private sector partner Telereal Trillium. This covers a variety of facilities including, where appropriate, the provision of catering services which is delivered through Telereal Trillium's service partner Compass Group UK. Compass undertakes all catering activity including food procurement.

In line with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs guidance, DWP reports on how the Government Buying Standards criteria are being met. This will feature in periodic updates on the DWP public website—the following link gives the latest details:

www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/gbs-food-catering.pdf

This link advises on DWP's commitment and that we are working closely with Telereal Trillium/Compass to maximise compliance with this commitment. For example, ensuring this subject features in regular meetings/discussions with Telereal Trillium/Compass and receiving updates/progress on compliance. In addition, Compass regularly meets with Telereal Trillium encouraging initiatives to promote local food producers. Regular promotions are delivered throughout sites such as vegetarian week, British sandwich week, Apple day, all of which support local producers.

Compass/Telereal Trillium actively encourage the sourcing of local produce. Compass maintain over 600 producers throughout the UK, actively encouraging the sale of local breads, eggs, vegetables and meats where possible. 38% of produce sourced for the DWP contract is produced by SME's. Recent promotional activities have included:

Introduction of the Chunky Farmer Sandwich Bloomer August 2011

Best of British Food Month June 2011

Promotions on locally produced yoghurts—ongoing

Eat Well Live Well fruit and vegetable promotion July 2011

Best Bramley Food Service Product award won by Compass in June 2011 for the Apple Crumble Slice which is sold across the DWP estate

Support of British Fruit Orchards—ongoing

British sandwich week—May 2011 focused on locally produced breads.

(b) Non-departmental public bodies that share accommodation with DWP on PRIME contract sites are included in the response at *(a)* above. For those NDPBs not covered by the PRIME contract, none directly source food, e.g. the Pension Advisory Service and the independent living fund (ILF) only occasionally buy food and snacks on an ad hoc basis in small quantities from local food retailers and as such unable to verify the source of food producers. Remploy no longer has a catering business. Their canteens are operated by local third party organisations and there is no central purchasing by the company of food or food materials. All non-departmental public bodies are aware of the Government Buying Standards.

Departmental Pay

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in his Department and the bodies for which he is responsible earned more than *(a)* £65,000, *(b)* £95,000, *(c)* £140,000 and *(d)* £175,000 in the last year for which figures are available. [78053]

Chris Grayling: At the end of the last financial year, there were in the region of 122,000 civil servants in DWP and its bodies. Of these, 761 earned more than £65,000, 87 of whom earned more than £95,000, nine of whom earned more than £140,000, six of whom earned more than £175,000. Since the end of the financial year, we have made reductions in the size of the senior civil service and reduced the number in each of the two highest categories by one.

Information about senior salaries can be found on the data.gov.uk website at:

http://data.gov.uk/organogram

Social Exclusion

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take together with *(a)* the Minister for Women and Equalities, *(b)* the Department for Education, *(c)* the Department for Communities and Local Government and *(d)* the Department of Health to tackle social exclusion. [85340]

Chris Grayling: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions chairs the Social Justice Cabinet Committee, of which my right hon. Friends the Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities, the Secretaries of State for Education and for Communities and Local Government, and the Under-Secretary for Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Guildford (Anne Milton), are members.

The Committee exists to consider issues relating to poverty, equality and social justice, and facilitates cross-Government working and scrutiny of policies for their effects on some of the most disadvantaged groups on society.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received overpayments of employment and support allowance in *(a)* St Helens South and Whiston constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* England in each year since 2008; and what average amount each was asked to repay in each such year. [84660]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available as the Department does not record cases in the format that would enable us to report against their location. We can provide volumes for the whole country with an average. The information is in the following table:

	Volume (k)	*Average value (£)*
2008-09[1]	3,329	57.19
2009-10	120,521	139.18
2010-11	233,481	202.71

[1] ESA commenced 27 October 2008.

Source:
Debt Accounting. This does not form official statistics but is derived from management information.

Employment Schemes: Compensation

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how his Department calculates the amount of compensation due to employment agencies that have recorded losses due to the switch from the Flexible New Deal to the Work programme. [85213]

Chris Grayling: Negotiations to agree settlements in closing Flexible New Deal Phase 1 contracts are currently in train and are commercial in confidence. It would therefore be prejudicial to DWP's remaining active negotiations to release this information at this time.

Employment Schemes: Third Sector

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the Work programme on the likelihood of third sector employment agencies being able to take part in future contacts. [85214]

Chris Grayling: DWP's delivery partners are expected to be able to demonstrate the capital strength to take on the risks inherent in an exclusively or heavily outcome-based approach. Smaller voluntary and community organisations were unable to demonstrate the capacity, especially the financial capacity, for selection onto the Employment Related Support Services (ERSS) Framework, from which future contracts will be delivered. However, many voluntary and community sector organisations are involved as subcontractors or work on a call-off basis delivering personalised and tailored employment services via a prime contractor.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to discontinue premium rate telephone numbers for people calling jobcentres. [85239]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not use any premium rate telephone numbers.

The Department's policy is that all calls should be free to our 0800 numbers to claim:

state pension;
pension credit;
jobseeker's allowance;
employment support allowance; and
emergency payments or crisis loans.

It is free to call DWP 0800 numbers from BT landlines. DWP has secured agreements to ensure that it is free to call via nine of the UK's largest mobile phone operators, representing 95% of the mobile market.

For other services, including calling local Jobcentres, 0845 numbers are used. This is because they are for inquiries that typically take less time to resolve. DWP strive to achieve the right balance between meeting customer needs and using taxpayers' money effectively. These calls are charged at variable rates determined by landline and mobile phone providers. DWP has retained geographical telephone numbers for personal advisers in Jobcentres, which means that claimants can contact their adviser directly when necessary. The Department appreciates the financial hardship that this can cause some people and so, if a customer raises a concern over the cost of the call or asks, we will offer to call them back.

The Department is currently reviewing its telephony numbering policy in conjunction with Ofcom. This includes the use of 0845 telephone numbers.

Pensions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the percentage increase will be in additional pension as a result of SERPS contributions from April 2012. [85101]

Steve Webb: As announced in the Uprating Statement today, SERPS pensions will rise in April 2012 by 5.2%.

Social Justice Committee

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many meetings of the Social Justice Committee he has attended since its establishment. [85291]

Chris Grayling: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, is the Chair of the Social Justice Cabinet Committee. It is however longstanding Government practice not to disclose information relating to ministerial meetings, including the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet committees, as to do so would put at risk the public interest in the full and frank discussion of policy by Ministers.

Social Security Benefits

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants who have participated in work capability assessments since February 2011 resulting in a recommendation by Atos of receipt of employment and support allowance in the support group his Department has subsequently decided should *(a)* receive employment and support allowance in the support group, *(b)* receive employment and support allowance in the work-related activity group and *(c)* not receive employment and support allowance. [85092]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available. Information on the number of work capability assessments (WCAs) completed for incapacity benefits claimants can be provided using the Department's

management information system, but to know the outcomes of the WCAs and the variation from the Atos recommendation requires individual level data.

Due to the overall length of the incapacity benefits reassessment process, information on the entire process including the final outcomes and subsequent destinations of claimants being reassessed is not yet available. Individual level data are being collected, but it will take time to complete because of the overall length of the reassessment process. The Department plans to publish data on the outcomes of the reassessment process, but only once they have been quality assured and are considered robust.

Social Security Benefits: Gurkhas

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the retired Gurkhas and their dependents that have settled in *(a)* Maidenhead, *(b)* Aldershot, *(c)* Reading and *(d)* Folkestone since 2009 have received (i) housing benefit, (ii) state pensions and tax credits and (iii) council tax benefit. [85220]

Chris Grayling: The information you have requested is not available. The UK's benefit payment systems do not record whether or not individuals in receipt of benefits are retired Gurkhas.

Unemployment: Ex-servicemen

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many armed forces veterans were *(a)* economically inactive and *(b)* long-term unemployed in each year since 2005-06; [84986]

(2) whether his Department has estimated the number of armed forces veterans who will be *(a)* economically inactive and *(b)* long-term unemployed in each year to 2015-16. [84987]

(3) what information his Department holds on the number of unemployed armed forces veterans in each English region. [84995]

Maria Miller: The Department for Work and Pensions does not routinely record whether benefit claimants are former armed forces personnel. Also, the Labour Force Survey does not record whether respondents are former armed forces personnel.

We are looking into ways of improving knowledge on the employment and benefit outcomes of ex-service personnel.

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date the integrated assurance and approvals plan for universal credit was presented to the programme board; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [83573]

Chris Grayling: The integrated assurance and approvals plan was presented to the Universal Credit Programme Board on 21 March 2011. The Programme Board signed-off the plan.

Government are currently considering how to drive greater transparency in project reporting through their policy on the publication of project and programme data. Key milestones, and other project-related information typically included in an IAAP, will form part of those policy considerations. DWP is party to those considerations and will align its reporting of all projects with the transparency policy once it is agreed.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the funding allocated to universal credit implementation will be spent on staff training. [85094]

Chris Grayling: The 2010 spending review settlement included funding of £2 billion for the period 2011-12 to 2014-15. This is intended to meet all the costs of introducing universal credit including any increases in benefit expenditure, additional benefit administration costs in the transition period, the costs of IT development and implementation, communications, staff training and programme management. Detailed commitments will be developed alongside programme plans.

Welfare to Work

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the upfront investment from private and voluntary bodies to his welfare to work programme came from private sector businesses; and if he will provide a breakdown of such investment. [84247]

Chris Grayling: During the bidding process for the Work programme, the 18 preferred bidders indicated they planned to invest up to £580 million over the lifetime of the contracts.

A breakdown by sector is not available.

Work Capability Assessment

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were exempted from a work capability assessment on the grounds that they were receiving intravenous chemotherapy or radiotherapy treatment for cancer in the latest period for which figures are available. [85093]

Chris Grayling: The exact information requested is not available as the Department's administrative data do not record the detail of the treatment being received by the claimant. However, the Department regularly publishes official statistics on employment and support allowance (ESA) and the work capability assessment (WCA). The latest report was published in October 2011 and can be found on the internet at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

Table 7 of the publication shows the results of initial assessment by condition group for claims started between October 2008 and February 2011. This shows that for all new claims to ESA with the primary condition in the 'neoplasms' group (the World Health Organisation classification of disease group for cancer), 13% were assessed to be fit for work, 14% were assessed to be in the work-related activity group, 52% were assessed to be in the support group and remainder were awaiting or closed their claim before completing the assessment.

Table 5 of the publication shows the number of claimants assessed to be in the support group at initial assessment by reason for claims started between October 2008 and February 2011. This shows that there were 16,400 claimants assessed to be in the support group because they were assessed as awaiting, receiving or recovering from intravenous, intraperitoneal or intrathecal chemotherapy. This is 15% of all those assessed to be in the support group at initial assessment.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84208]

Mr Duncan: The most recent figures are 48 (full-time equivalents) communications staff in the Department for International Development. This can be broken down as follows:

(a) 11 press officers

(b) Five internal communications officers

(c) 0 external communications officers

(d) 17 strategic communications officers

(e) Nine digital (web content) and six communications officers overseas.

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what receptions and events have been hosted by his Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by third parties. [84207]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has hosted or co-hosted 15 events and receptions since May 2010. Contacting country offices for details of their events and receptions would incur disproportionate cost, so this list includes events and receptions organised by DFID's UK headquarters only. All events and receptions are carried out at minimal cost to the Department by collaborating with partners and making use of free venues where possible.

Date	*Event*
2010	
21 to 22 June	Hosted: Politics of Poverty event. Sunningdale.
8 July	Hosted: Launch of Development Assistance Committee peer review of DFID. Palace St.
22 September	Co-hosted: High level event on Malaria. UN MDGs summit. New York.
6 December	Co-hosted: EU conference on international development.
2011	
29 March	Co-hosted: Afghanistan stakeholder event, with Baroness Northover. British Museum.
7 June	Hosted: DFID alumni annual event. Palace St.
8 June	Hosted: Secretary of State one year on speech. Royal College of Pathologists.
12 June	Co-hosted: GAVI reception. Central London.
13 June	Co-hosted: GAVI pledging conference with Gates Foundation and Government of Liberia. Central London.
20 to 22 July	Co-hosted: Annual Tidewater meeting. Wilton Park.
4 to 5 August	Hosted: Gulf donors meeting. Lancaster House.
11 July	Hosted: Secretary of State speech on business in Africa. London Business School.
21 September	Co-hosted: MDG Countdown event. UN General Assembly.
9 November	Hosted: Secretary of State Beyond Aid speech. Wellcome Trust.
24 November	Hosted: 30th Anniversary event for DFID's Scottish HQ. Abercrombie House.

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any senior staff in his Department are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85075]

Mr O'Brien: No senior members of staff working for the Department for International Development (DFID) are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of salary. DFID does not have a policy on such payments.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84227]

Mr Duncan: Information in relation to the outsourcing of goods and equipment is on the external Department for International Development (DFID) website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

as are the details of the competitively let frameworks and the associated contract details of Crown Agents, Charles Kendall and International Procurement Agency. Most recently these were let in 2009 and run until February 2013.

DFID outsource their travel management requirements with Hogg Robinson Group (HRG). All UK generated travel requirements such as air, rail and hotels are booked by HRG. Value for money is achieved through HRG providing "best fare on the day". DFID are also rolling out this contract to overseas offices and migration is expected to be by June 2013. DFID will then transfer onto the new central Government contract which is currently being procured for all central Government Departments. The contract which is a call-down from the Buying Solutions framework commenced in July 2009 and expires in June 2013.

DFID outsource their facilities management requirements to MITIE Technical Facilities Management Ltd for the provision of Total Facilities Management in the UK. We have also outsourced a small number of information technology functions.

DFID humanitarian operations and support services are outsourced to Crown Agents under the Conflict Humanitarian and Security Department (CHASE OT outsourced contract). The contract duration is five years (2005-11).

Developing Countries: Malaria

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of rapid detection tests on the treatment of malaria. [84463]

Mr O'Brien: More accurate diagnosis can improve outcomes for malaria and other diseases, including major causes of child deaths, such as pneumonia. Therefore, World Health Organisation malaria treatment guidelines now recommend universal diagnostic confirmation of suspected cases of malaria.

Low cost and accurate rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) are now available for use at the point of care. However, their influence on subsequent clinical practice has been variable in different settings and with different providers, and adherence to test results is still an issue in countries where RDTs have been scaled up. But there is growing evidence to show that RDTs can be used for effective case management when supported by training, supervision and the availability and use of quality assured malaria medicines, and options for treating or referring non-malaria cases.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department allocated to malaria diagnosis through rapid detection tests in each of the last five years; and what funding he has allocated for each of the next five years. [84464]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development does not track inputs, allocations and expenditure according to the category requested. The UK's codes are based on the OECD Development Assistance Committee codes which are used for reporting ODA and, as a DAC member, the UK is committed to transparent reporting of development assistance in a way that permits international comparisons.

Addressing malaria is one of the main priorities of the UK Government. We are committed to helping halve malaria deaths in at least 10 of the worst affected countries by 2015. And we will support action to sustain and expand gains into the future. The UK will invest up to £500 million each year by 2014-15 to support this goal where results can be delivered and value for money demonstrated.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of malaria diagnosis through rapid detection tests on the tracking and mapping of malaria. [84465]

Mr O'Brien: The increased use of diagnostic testing can support more accurate reporting on malaria. Initially, it is likely to lead to a significant decrease in the number of reported cases in many countries, as rates of misdiagnosis decrease. Data collection and monitoring systems also need to be strengthened.

The combination of increased use of rapid diagnostic tests for malaria and improved data monitoring contributes to more effective and cost-efficient planning and delivery of malaria services. This, in turn, helps address the health needs of people who would otherwise be misdiagnosed.

Developing Countries: Malnutrition

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of child malnutrition in fragile states. [84280]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) recently published the paper 'Scaling Up Nutrition: the UK's position paper on undernutrition', which states that, between 2011 and 2015, its nutrition-related programmes (in addition to humanitarian assistance) will reach 20 million children under the age of five, 10 million of whom are in fragile countries. For example, in five states in northern Nigeria, the UK is developing a six-year programme that will reach 6.2 million children through the expansion of services for the community management of acute under-nutrition, providing essential vitamin and minerals supplementation and helping to promote exclusive breastfeeding.

Tackling acute child under-nutrition remains a strong focus of the UK's humanitarian response. The UK is increasing its support to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to scale up and sustain coverage of its young child feeding, provision of micronutrients and nutrition security in emergencies and protracted crises. In Yemen the UK is delivering humanitarian assistance through a variety of agencies including UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross and a consortium of non-governmental organisations including Oxfam, Save the Children, CARE and Islamic Relief. This is already helping to treat over 80,000 malnourished children under the age of five and screen 1.1 million more. Where possible DFID will use its nutrition programmes to build longer-term capacity to respond to nutrition crises through multi-year funding.

EU Aid: Family Planning

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will discuss with his EU counterparts *(a)* global interests in stabilising population levels and *(b)* increasing EU aid for family planning. [84855]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government are working closely with others, including the EU, to advance a comprehensive understanding of the role of population dynamics (specifically the demographic dividend associated with declining fertility) in helping achieve increased economic productivity and rising per capita income in developing economies. A major cause of poverty and a contributor to rapid population growth is the lack of choice for women and girls over their own fertility. We know that 215 million women in the developing world, who would like to delay or avoid a pregnancy, do not have access to modern family planning methods.

This is why the Government have recently announced additional support for contraceptive supplies to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to help prevent two million unintended pregnancies and avert nearly 220,000 unsafe abortions. In November 2010, the EU also pledged €23 million to UNFPA's Global Programme for Reproductive Health Commodity Security.

Overseas Aid: Education

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many education officers his Department employs. [84587]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development currently employs 34 education advisers. During 2012 this is likely to increase to 42 education advisers as the result of recent and ongoing recruitment. Education advisers work alongside programme management staff and advisers from other disciplines in the delivery of DFID's education programmes.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced People

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received on the situation of internally displaced people in Sri Lanka. [85229]

Mr O'Brien: DFID receives regular reports through the British High Commission in Colombo on the situation of internally displaced peoples in Sri Lanka. About 7,500 displaced people remain in camps in Sri Lanka, out of about 300,000 at the end of the conflict in 2009. They are receiving humanitarian assistance through a number of UN agencies.

World Bank

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the *(a)* World Bank's proposed new lending instrument set out in Operational Policy 9.00: Programme for Results heading and *(b)* proposal to remove application of World Bank social and environmental safeguard policies from financing under that instrument; and whether under that proposal there will be effective and appropriate use of the UK's contribution to the funding of the World Bank. [85309]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I consider Program-for-Results (P4R), the World Bank's proposed results-based lending instrument, to be an effective way of modernising the way the World Bank lends to developing countries. The results focus of the new lending instrument will encourage efficiency, sharpen the emphasis on impact and enable the bank to partner with others more effectively. This will help to ensure value for money from the UK's funding to the World Bank.

The World Bank continues to update the proposal. We take social and environmental risks seriously and will consider these issues in detail when we receive the final proposal.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to provide *(a)* low cost housing for sale and *(b)* affordable rented housing in the next three years. [84652]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Homes Programme 2011-15 will deliver 80,000 new homes for Affordable Rent and Affordable Home Ownership with Government funding of just under £1.8 billion. Around 21% of these homes will be for Affordable Home Ownership.

Overall, with our total investment of £4.5 billion we expect to provide up to 170,000 new affordable homes by 2015, compared to the 150,000 originally estimated.

Business

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if there are any regulations governing local authority subsidy of commercial businesses; and if he will make a statement. [85159]

Robert Neill: Authorities need to act within European Commission regulations on state aid. Other domestic regulations may be relevant such as the ones governing business rate reliefs.

Council Housing

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an estimate of the proportion of council houses which have been sold and are available to rent. [84771]

Andrew Stunell: Almost all council homes that have been sold will have been through the Right to Buy or through transfer to housing associations. The vast majority of homes disposed to registered housing associations will still be available for rent. We keep no record of the use made of homes sold to individuals, for example through the Right to Buy, or to other bodies.

Statistics relating to the disposal of council housing can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/socialhousingsales/livetables/

Council Tax Benefits

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to announce whether the work associated with council tax discounts will be transferred to local authorities along with the council tax benefit scheme. [84053]

Robert Neill: The Government are proposing a number of technical reforms for council tax, which are currently subject to a public consultation exercise. We would expect any changes to be in force by April 2013.

The separate consultation on localising council tax support, which is to replace council tax benefit, has now closed. Local schemes of support for council tax will be in place from April 2013.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he has given to delaying his planned introduction of local authority-based schemes for council tax benefit support to allow a greater period of time between the coming into force of secondary

legislation and the date on which local authorities must issue invoices; and whether he has carried out a risk assessment in respect of his current planned timetable. [84055]

Robert Neill: My Department has no intention of delaying the planned introduction in April 2013.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible. [83796]

Robert Neill: All eggs used by the Department for Communities and Local Government and its public bodies are Lion branded and sourced from enriched cages as a minimum standard.

From 1 January 2012, all eggs and egg products will be sourced from enhanced conventional cages.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [83797]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government's caterers procured 56% of food from UK food producers. The Department does not hold this information for its public bodies.

The Department's caterers are contracted to comply with Government buying standards for food with regard to food purchase and provision and we are working to increase the volume of food procured from the UK.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83798]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government's and its public bodies' caterers must comply with Government buying standards for food and catering.

Formula Grants

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what funding was allocated by his Department for *(a)* the formula grant and *(b)* specific grant funding for (i) Suffolk Coastal, (ii) Teignbridge, (iii) Breckland, (iv) Mid Sussex, (v) South Oxfordshire, (vi) South Cambridgeshire, (vii) East Lindsey, (viii) Isle of Wight and (ix) Wealden in each financial year between 2008-09 and 2011-12; [84756]

(2) what funding was allocated by his Department for *(a)* the formula grant and *(b)* specific grant funding for (i) Ipswich, (ii) Halton, (iii) Nuneaton and Bedworth, (iv) Slough, (v) Norwich, (vi) Thanet, (vii) Reigate and Banstead, (viii) Torbay, (ix) Windsor and Maidenhead, (x) Oxford, (xi) Canterbury and (xii) Blackburn and Darwen in each financial year between 2008-09 and 2011-12; [84757]

(3) what funding was allocated by his Department for *(a)* the formula grant and *(b)* specific grant funding for (i) Newcastle-under-Lyme, (ii) Preston, (iii) Middlesbrough, (iv) Poole, (v) Arun and (vi) Elmbridge in each financial year between 2008-09 and 2011-12; [84758]

(4) what per capita funding was allocated by his Department for *(a)* the formula grant and *(b)* specific grant funding for (i) Suffolk Coastal, (ii) Teignbridge, (iii) Breckland, (iv) Mid Sussex, (v) South Oxfordshire, (vi) South Cambridgeshire, (vii) East Lindsey, (viii) Isle of Wight and (ix) Wealdon in each financial year between 2008-09 and 2011-12; [84964]

(5) what per capita funding was allocated by his Department for *(a)* the formula grant and *(b)* specific grant funding for (i) Ipswich, (ii) Halton, (iii) Nuneaton and Bedworth, (iv) Slough, (v) Norwich, (vi) Thanet, (vii) Reigate and Banstead, (viii) Torbay, (ix) Windsor and Maidenhead, (x) Oxford, (xi) Canterbury and (xii) Blackburn with Darwen in each financial year between 2008-09 and 2011-12; [84965]

(6) what per capita funding was allocated by his Department for *(a)* the formula grant and *(b)* specific grant funding for (i) Newcastle-under-Lyme, (ii) Preston, (iii) Middlesbrough, (iv) Poole, (v) Arun and (vi) Elmbridge in each financial year between 2008-09 and 2011-12; [84966]

(7) what per capita funding was allocated by his Department for *(a)* the formula grant and *(b)* specific grant funding for (i) Eastleigh, (ii) Amber Valley, (iii) North Hertfordshire, (iv) Broadland, (v) Stafford, (vi) Epping Forest, (vii) Swale, (viii) Warwick, (ix) East Hertfordshire, (x) St Albans, (xi) Guildford, (xii) Cherwell, (xiii) Lancaster, (xiv) Dacorum, (xv) Maidstone and (xvi) Redcar and Cleveland in each financial year between 2008-09 and 2011-12; [84967]

(8) what per capita funding was allocated by his Department *(a)* for formula grant and *(b)* specific grant funding for financial years 2008-09 and 2011-12 for (i) Vale of White Horse, (ii) Waverley, (iii) Horsham, (iv) South Kesteven, (v) East Devon, (vi) Braintree, (vii) King's Lynn and West Norfolk and (viii) Tendring in each financial year between 2008-09 and 2011-12. [84968]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* These data can be found online at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ssas.htm

Comparisons between years may not be valid due to varying functions and responsibilities of different tiers of local government.

Disabled Facilities Grants

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has any plans to change the assessment for the Disability Facilities Grant. [84997]

Andrew Stunell: There are currently no plans to make changes to the way in which Disabled Facilities Grants are assessed. However, the recently published report by the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support recommends reviewing the operation and administration of the grant. The Government welcome this report and are reviewing the recommendations with the care sector. Following this engagement, we will publish a White Paper on social care reform in the spring next year, as well as a progress report on funding reform. By the end of the spending review period the national Disabled Facilities Grant budget will increase from £169 million in 2010-11 to £185 million in 2014-15.

Empty Property

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of empty properties in *(a)* the borough of Swindon and *(b)* England in each year since 2001. [84451]

Robert Neill: Details of the total number of empty dwellings in the borough of Swindon and England in each year since 2004 are shown in the following table. The figures include both long-term and short-term empty dwellings. Data prior to 2004 are not available.

	Swindon	*England*
2004	1,768	710,935
2005	2,374	723,509
2006	1,877	744,931
2007	1,723	763,319
2008	1,714	783,119
2009	1,928	770,661
2010	1,897	737,491
2011	1,832	720,328

The data are taken from the council tax base form completed annually in the autumn by all billing authorities in England and returned to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

This information is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1815793.xls

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which bodies are eligible to apply for funding from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency to address the problem of empty homes. [85304]

Grant Shapps: £100 million has been made available within the Affordable Homes Programme to tackle long term empty homes. The Homes and Communities Agency issued bidding guidance on 21 November 2011 at

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/ourwork/empty-homes

which sets out how the funding available will be allocated either through the Homes and Communities Agency (or, from 1 April 2012, for London, the Greater London Authority) or through a national intermediary appointed via the Cabinet Office's Office for Civil Society Framework Agreement. The two funding routes ensure that both Registered Providers of Social Housing and smaller not-for-profit community and voluntary groups are able to apply.

We have announced £50 million of additional funding to tackle some of the worst concentrations of empty homes. Tackling empty homes in these areas will require an intensive approach—refurbishing and reconfiguring homes, as well as improving the public realm and tackling wider issues in the local area. Further details will be announced shortly.

Empty Property: Worcestershire

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the number of empty homes in *(a)* Worcester constituency and *(b)* Worcestershire. [85036]

Robert Neill: Details of the number of empty dwellings in the six local authority areas that comprise Worcestershire, as at the beginning of October 2011, are shown in the following table. Data are not available at constituency level.

	Empty dwellings		
	Long-term	*Short-term*	*Total*
Bromsgrove	329	671	1,000
Malvern Hills	456	663	1,119
Redditch	268	590	858
Worcester	428	833	1,261
Wychavon	490	832	1,322
Wyre Forest	504	919	1,423
Total	2,475	4,508	6,983

This information was published on 16 November 2011 and is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/counciltaxbase2011

The data are taken from the Council Tax Base form completed annually in the autumn by all billing authorities in England and returned to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

EU Grants and Loans: Yorkshire and the Humber

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure take-up of the European Regional Development Fund available to Yorkshire and the Humber. [84537]

Grant Shapps: The Yorkshire and the Humber European Regional Development Fund Competitiveness programme is worth around £500 million which aims to be fully invested by December 2013 and spent by mid 2015. Over £270 million has already been contracted to over 70 projects supporting innovation, research and development, enterprise, business support and community led regeneration. £100 million more is committed to projects that have not yet been contracted.

Local partners in the Yorkshire and the Humber area are working hard to make sure this Development Fund investment is taken up. Local authorities, Local Enterprise

Partnerships and Universities are being brought together by the local DCLG European Regional Development Fund Team to develop firm proposals to take up the remaining funding and are being encouraged to take advantage of the Fund Technical Assistance funding to help build local capacity to develop and deliver eligible projects.

Local Enterprise Partnerships have an important role in making sure that the European Regional Development Fund is aligned with local investment priorities. To this end we have revised the governance arrangements of the programme to ensure that these partnerships are represented on the Yorkshire and the Humber European Regional Development Fund Local Management Committee—the body responsible for the strategic management of the programme—and that Local Enterprise Partnerships are directly involved in the selection of projects for these funds.

We are also working closely with other government departments to align the European Regional Development Fund with national investment such as that of the Department of Business Innovation and Skills on the UKTI and Business Coaching For Growth programme that will deliver support to businesses in Yorkshire and the Humber.

We are also exploring how the Growing Places Fund can be used to get local Development Fund projects moving.

I also refer the hon. Member to my Department's press notice of 1 August 2011, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, which outlines how the European Regional Development Fund has previously been plagued by a legacy of poor administration, and how this Government have overhauled the management of these schemes. As a result of these measures, the European Commission lifted an interruption on the programme which it had ordered. These steps will also protect taxpayers from the prospect of "financial corrections" being levied due to poor administration, as happened under the 2000-06 programme.

Green Belt

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures his Department has put in place to require local authorities to identify brownfield sites for development in preference to Green Belt development. [84373]

Robert Neill: In July 2011, we published a draft new National Planning Policy Framework for consultation. The draft Framework maintains strong protections for the Green Belt, and states that Green Belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances. Our proposed abolition of the unpopular Regional Strategies through the Localism Act will also stop the top-down pressure to remove the Green Belt in 30 areas across England.

The draft Framework asks local authorities to prioritise land of least environmental or amenity value for development. The term "of least environmental or amenity value" rather than "brownfield" was used because in some cases, previously developed land can be rich in wildlife and much valued by local communities.

The consultation has closed and we are carefully considering all of the submissions that have been made and will then publish the revised text.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 123-24W, where we have also announced a range of measures which will facilitate the use of previously developed sites.

Green Belt: Gravesham

Mr Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he expects the abolition of regional house building targets to result in a reduction in the number of houses likely to be built on land in Gravesham constituency currently designated as green belt. [84374]

Robert Neill: The abolition of regional strategies and top down housing targets will mean that decisions on housing and planning will be for local authorities. As democratically elected representatives, working closely with local communities, they are best placed to decide how much and where housing should be located in their areas. The Localism Act prevents any further regional strategies being created. The existing regional strategies outside London will be abolished as soon as possible subject to the outcome of the current environmental assessment process. The proposed abolition will also remove top-down pressures to remove the green belt in 30 areas across England.

The draft National Planning Policy Framework reiterates long-established policy to protect the green belt. It states that when considering planning applications local planning authorities should ensure that substantial weight is given to any harm to the green belt.

Housing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the planning implications of potential housing need arising from the upper and lower limits of the Office for National Statistics' projected population range for 2050. [84821]

Andrew Stunell: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 59-60W.

Housing: Capital Investment

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the total capital provision for housing made by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency since 2007-08. [R] [84573]

Andrew Stunell: The following table sets out the total capital provision made available to local authorities for spending on housing for the years since 2007-08. Allocations have been made in consultation with the Homes and Communities Agency, and other agencies of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	£ million 2010-11[1]
Arms length management organisations[3]	926	896	930	622
Decent homes supported borrowing[4]	312	272	266	259
Decent homes capital grant[4]	437	347	426	308
Gap funding[3]	79	123	149	131
Major repairs allowance[2]	1248	1240	1250	1273
Local authority new build scheme[3]	0	0	198	126
National affordable homes programme	2029	2612	3641	2594

[1] Most recent whole year for which figures are available. Figures are unaudited.
[2] Allocations made as a component of housing revenue account subsidy administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government
[3] Allocations made by former Regional Offices, the Regional Housing Boards, and the Greater London Authority, in agreement with the Department for Communities and Local Government.
[4] Allocations made by the Homes and Communities Agency in agreement with the Department for Communities and Local Government

I would note that the last Administration left an unsustainable budget deficit, with the state forecast to borrow £146 billion a year in 2010-11, or £400 million being borrowed every single day. Left unchecked, that public deficit would have forced up interest rates, meaning more expensive mortgages, more repossessions and even fewer first-time buyers.

This Government are tackling that deficit, whilst putting a series of measures in place to build more affordable homes, to get empty homes back into use, to support the construction and house building industries, and to give a helping hand to first-time buyers.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on the effect on the cost of house construction of the *(a)* implementation of changes to building regulations in 2013, *(b)* abolition of the fuel factor and *(c)* implementation of the zero carbon commitment for all new homes from 2016. [84039]

Andrew Stunell: Industry working groups including, among others, representatives of the housebuilding and construction products sector were convened in spring 2011 to help inform development of proposals and costings for changes to building regulations in 2013. In addition, my Department has received specific representations from Calor Gas Limited on the cost implications of potential adjustments of the fuel factor. Estimates of costs will be included in the impact assessments which will be published with the consultation proposals shortly and we will invite views and further evidence as part of the consultation.

My Department has received representations from house builders and others about the costs of zero carbon homes and has published impact assessments setting out the costs, most recently in May 2011. That assessment has drawn on work undertaken by the independent Zero Carbon Hub, the body established by industry to programme manage the delivery of zero carbon homes.

Housing: Energy

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic properties have an energy efficiency rating of C or above. [84396]

Andrew Stunell: Energy efficiency ratings are only available from Energy Performance Certificates that have been lodged on the Certificates Register covering England, Wales and Northern Ireland for dwellings that have been sold, rented out or constructed since August 2007. Based on information from the total number of certificates that had been lodged on these registers up to and including 29 November 2011, there were 2,501,556 dwellings with a certificate rating of C or above. Separate arrangements apply to energy efficiency ratings for buildings in Scotland.

Housing: Standards

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic properties have a standard assessment procedure rating of 69 or above. [84394]

Andrew Stunell: Energy efficiency ratings are only available from energy performance certificates that have been lodged on the registers of energy performance certificates covering England, Wales and Northern Ireland for dwellings that have been sold, rented out or constructed since August 2007. Based on information from the total number of certificates that had been lodged on these registers up to and including 29 November 2011, there were 2,501,556 dwellings with a certificate rating of C or above—a standard assessment procedure rating of 69 or above is the equivalent to a certificate rating of C or above. Separate arrangements apply to energy efficiency ratings for buildings in Scotland.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to co-ordinate policy on poor housing conditions and fuel poverty. [84648]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The Green Deal is an ambitious programme to deliver energy efficiency upgrades at no upfront cost, with repayments made over time from energy savings. This includes a new Energy Company Obligation, worth £1.3 billion per year, providing extra support where it is most needed. Under the Obligation 'Affordable Warmth obligation', we expect energy suppliers to invest around £350 million per year in providing heating and insulation measures for vulnerable households on low incomes at greatest risk of fuel poverty. The Government anticipate that the rest of the Energy Company Obligation will support energy efficiency improvements in more difficult and expensive to treat properties through a 'Carbon Reduction

obligation'. The Department of Energy and Climate Change are consulting specifically on expected models for "roll-out", to ensure all households stand to benefit, including those in the poorest communities.

Where a property is dangerously cold, local authorities already have powers, under the Housing Act 2004, to require owners to make improvements. If a property is found to contain serious (category 1) hazards, the local authority has a duty to take the most appropriate action. This could range from trying to deal with the problems informally at first to prohibiting the use of the whole or part of the dwelling and ultimately to prosecution.

The Government are also investing £2.1 billion to improve the quality of housing through the decent homes programme and large-scale voluntary transfer gap funding. This will be used to help bring over 200,000 homes up to at least the decent homes standard.

Local Government: Pensions

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what economic impact assessment has been carried out on the effect of proposed changes to the Local Government Pension scheme on residents of Oldham East and Saddleworth constituency; and if he will make a statement. [85201]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Members for Gedling (Vernon Coaker) and for Stoke-on-Trent Central (Tristram Hunt), on 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 23W.

Local Government: Trade Union Officials

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will issue a standard facility time agreement to local authorities which sets out *(a)* duties which can be undertaken, *(b)* procedures for approval of such facilities time and *(c)* provision for the publication of (i) each instance of such facilities time and (ii) the cost of such time. [84622]

Robert Neill: At a time when all councils need to make sensible savings to protect front line services, I would urge councillors to review facility time being granted and the merits of using publicly-funded full-time union officials.

The Cabinet Office is currently consulting on a policy paper about how facility time can be reformed and reduced in the civil service. When published, my Department will provide specific guidance for local councils to help inform their own reviews.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will require local authorities to include the *(a)* cost of facility time and *(b)* monetary value of resources provided to trades unions in the list published of items of expenditure over £500. [84624]

Robert Neill: The Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency, published in September 2011, will give the public greater insight on how local councils, as employers, organise and structure their work forces. As a minimum, the code requires authorities to publish organisational charts of their staff structures including salary bands. In addition, we have asked for all expenditure of £500 and over to be published on a regular and timely basis. This should help reveal the inner workings of local councils and shed light on monies being spent, including on trade union expenditure. Subject to consultation, we are minded to make compliance with the code a legal requirement.

The Cabinet Office is currently consulting on a policy paper about how facility time can be reformed and reduced in the civil service. When published, my Department will provide guidance for local councils to help inform their own reviews.

Ministers are open to representations on ways to increase transparency and accountability in this area.

Rented Housing: Energy

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of increases in energy prices on provision of communal heating to Housing Revenue Account tenanted properties; and if he will make a statement. [84024]

Andrew Stunell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 907W.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Housing Revenue Account tenanted properties have an energy efficiency rating of C or above. [84395]

Andrew Stunell: Information contained in the Register of Energy Performance Certificates does not differentiate between properties that are housing revenue account tenanted and those that are not. However, certificates that have been lodged on the Energy Performance Certificate Registers for dwellings that have been sold, rented out or constructed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, since 21 September 2008 have been categorised by transaction type. Between then and 29 November 2011, there have been 564,956 certificates for dwellings rated C or above categorised as "Rented (social)". Separate arrangements apply to energy efficiency ratings for buildings in Scotland.

Rented Housing: Standards

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Housing Revenue Account tenanted properties have a standard assessment procedure rating of 69 or above. [84391]

Andrew Stunell: Information contained in the register of energy performance certificates does not differentiate between properties that are housing revenue account tenanted and those that are not. However, energy performance certificates that have been lodged on the registers for dwellings that have been sold, rented out or constructed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, since 21 September 2008 have been categorised by transaction type. Between then and 29 November 2011, there have been 564,956 certificates for dwellings rated C or above categorised as "Rented (social)". On the Scottish register of energy performance certificates,

of the 130,741 certificates lodged under transaction type "Rented (social)" there were 67,488 dwellings certificates rated C or above.

A standard assessment procedure rating of 69 or above is the equivalent to an energy performance certificate rating of C or above.

Right to Buy Scheme: Worcester

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in Worcester constituency have been sold under the right-to-buy scheme in each of the last 20 years. [85038]

Andrew Stunell: Data are not available by constituency but are collected for local authority districts. The number of sales of local authority stock under the Right to Buy scheme are given in Live Table 648 on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/socialhousingsales/livetables/

There have been no sales by Worcester city council since they transferred their stock to Worcester Community Housing in March 2004. From 2004-05 there have been around 200 Preserved Right to Buy sales by housing associations in the Worcester city council area, the vast majority by Worcester Community Housing.

Rural Areas: Finance

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what grants are available exclusively to local authorities classified as *(a)* rural-80, *(c)* rural-50, *(c)* significant rural, *(d)* other urban, *(e)* major urban and *(f)* large urban. [84696]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* There are no specific grants issued by my Department exclusively available to authorities based on their rural classification.

Social Justice Committee

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings of the Social Justice Committee he has attended since its establishment. [85288]

Robert Neill: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when and how often they meet and which Ministers have attended, is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Social Rented Housing

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his policy is on housing associations *(a)* letting and *(b)* selling their properties to people living outside the UK in the last year for which figures are available; [79278]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of housing association properties that have been *(a)* let and *(b)* sold to people living outside of the UK in the last year for which figures are available. [79279]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* Given the discussion of these issues at October's oral questions, 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 601, I have investigated this matter and would like to use this opportunity to provide a comprehensive reply both to the right hon. Member and to the right hon. Member for Greenwich and Woolwich (Mr Raynsford).

Numbers of lets and sales

The following tables provide estimates of the number of social properties that were let or sold by private registered providers, the majority of which are housing associations, to people resident outside the United Kingdom immediately prior to taking up this letting or purchase. I have included some historical information to provide context.

Social housing lettings to households from outside the UK

	Outside UK	*Outside UK as percentage of total*
2002-03	583	0.26
2003-04	586	0.26
2004-05	412	0.19
2005-06	427	0.19
2006-07	290	0.13
2007-08	329	0.15
2008-09	348	0.15
2009-10	463	0.20
2010-11	569	0.22

Sales to households from outside the UK

	Outside UK
2005-06	4
2006-07	0
2007-08	4
2008-09	8
2009-10	6
2010-11	5

These estimates are from the continuous recording (CORE) logs reported by private registered providers to the Tenant Services Authority.

Many of the recorded lettings were to UK nationals. Whilst only a small number of sales to those outside the UK were recorded in 2010-11, all of these were to UK nationals and some were to returning armed forces personnel.

Foreign nationals are only eligible to be allocated social housing by a local authority (including nominations to private registered provider accommodation) if they are covered by the housing eligibility regulations.

Housing eligibility

Housing eligibility is as follows:

European economic area nationals

Since 2006, European economic area nationals are, broadly speaking, eligible for local authority housing if they are working lawfully, are self-sufficient or have a permanent right of residence (following five years lawful residence). In some circumstances, European economic area nationals may continue to be eligible when unemployed, following a qualifying period of work (e.g. if made involuntarily redundant or unable to work because of accident or illness).

Nationals of Bulgaria and Romania must be authorised to work by the Home Office (until they have worked in the UK continuously for 12 months). They are eligible for social housing if working as authorised.

European economic area nationals who do not have an EU right to reside because they are not economically active and not self-sufficient are not eligible for social housing. Additionally, those whose only EU right to reside is as a work seeker or the initial three month right to reside derived from the EU Directive on Freedom of Movement of Persons are not eligible.

Non-European economic area nationals

Non-European economic area nationals ("third country nationals") are only eligible for local authority housing if they are a person granted:

(i) a form of protection leave, ie refugee status or humanitarian protection or discretionary leave, because it would not be safe for them to return to their country (likely to be former asylum seekers); or

(ii) Indefinite leave to remain (ie settled status, usually granted after working legally in the UK for a number of years).

Generally third country nationals are not eligible for housing because most are given leave to enter the UK for a limited period on condition that they do not have recourse to public funds. Asylum seekers are not eligible for social housing; if they are destitute they can seek asylum support from the Home Office.

Where foreign nationals are eligible, they will have their housing needs considered on the same basis as other applicants in accordance with the local authority's allocation scheme. Some lettings are made directly by private registered providers and these would not be covered by the eligibility regulations.

Sales and lets of open market housing

The tables above do not include sales of open market properties that were specifically developed by the providers for this purpose and have never been social housing. Housing associations are private, independent bodies, and some develop properties through non-charitable subsidiaries for market sale or rent, without any public subsidy. The proceeds from these sales are then used to cross-subsidise the development and maintenance of affordable properties. As with any commercial transaction, the market housing may be purchased by domestic or overseas buyers. I suspect that most foreign purchases from abroad are typically in order to rent the property, thereby increasing the amount of stock in the private rented sector available to UK residents.

Further to the discussion at 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 601, the Notting Hill Housing Trust has subsequently written to the right hon. Member for Greenwich and Woolwich (Mr Raynsford), and sent a copy to me. The trust has a small portfolio of market rent and private sale properties, using the profits from these developments to support more affordable housing. It does not presently market these properties abroad, but it does not discriminate against any buyer on the basis of their nationality, and nor does it believe it should do so.

Government policy

As happened under the previous Administration, I believe that there is a public benefit from housing associations undertaking some commercial activities in order to support the provision of more affordable housing.

Under our social housing reforms, councils will now be able to set their own rules about who qualifies to go on the housing waiting list. At the moment anyone can apply to live in social housing, whether they need to or not. The 'reasonable preference' categories for those with the greatest housing needs will be kept, to ensure priority for social housing continues to go to the most vulnerable in society and those who need it most.

We will also be increasing support for our armed forces. Moving from base-to-base, and residing abroad, can often leave our troops without strong local connections—something many councils reasonably look for when allocating social homes. I have pledged to give councils a duty to put our armed forces who want a home in their area at or near the top of the local waiting list where they are in urgent need. In addition to this move to give additional preference (i.e. high priority) to the armed forces, we will also be consulting on regulations which will make sure that service personnel who have to move from base-to-base do not lose their qualification rights to social housing.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his policy is on *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations buying properties on the open market; [79643]

(2) how many properties *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations have acquired on the open market in each of the last 10 years. [79644]

Grant Shapps: Local authorities and housing associations are able to buy properties on the open market. This can help to increase the supply of affordable housing to meet local needs. However, the vast majority of new affordable housing supply is new build.

Information on units purchased by private registered providers (most of which are housing associations) is shown in the table.

	Total units purchased[1] (thousand)
2001-02	13.6
2002-03	11.5
2003-04	9.4
2004-05	9.1
2005-06	4.7
2005-06 rebased[2]	4.4
2006-07	4.0
2007-08	5.9
2008-09	6.9
2009-10	5.9

[1] Units include both self contained homes or hostel/shared housing units and bed spaces.

[2] Figures for 2005-06 were rebased to reflect the threshold change in 2007.

Notes:

1. Only private registered providers that complete the "long return" were required to complete this information.

Before 2006, long returns were completed by private registered providers who own and/or manage 250 units

From 2006-07 long returns were completed by private registered providers who own and/or manage 1,000 or more units.

2. Not all of the units purchased will necessarily be used as affordable housing.

Source:

Tenants Services Authority—Regulatory Statistical Return

The Tenants Services Authority's Regulatory Statistical Return dataset for 2010-11 shows that 16,700 units were purchased by private registered providers. However, 10,259 units appear to have been incorrectly recorded by an individual registered provider as purchased rather than acquired through voluntary transfer from local authorities or housing action trusts. This was identified after submission and confirmation of the individual registered provider's data and the finalisation of the Regulatory Statistical Return dataset, and cannot now be amended.

Information has not been collected on local authority acquisitions.

Voluntary Organisations

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to help maintain the local voluntary sector. [78757]

Andrew Stunell: My Department is undertaking a number of steps to support the local voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, including:

In September 2011, we issued new Best Value guidance: a 'fair deal' which cuts back unnecessary red tape on local authorities, while introducing new requirements for councils to consult with local voluntary organisations on changes to funding and service. It will also give the voluntary sector the opportunity to offer options for reshaping and improving local authority services.

We are investing £6.5 billion for Supporting People over the spending review period, to provide frontline housing support to disadvantaged and vulnerable people; the majority of these services are provided by the voluntary sector.

We are providing £20 million of funding for the voluntary sector to help implement "No Second Night Out" rough sleeping strategy. As part of this, Homeless Link will work with other voluntary sector partners to identify and disseminate good practice in helping people off the streets. We are providing £10 million to Crisis in order to support single homeless people, including priority client groups such as recovering drug-users and ex-offenders, to access stable accommodation in the private rented sector.

On 14 November 2011, we launched the Near Neighbours programme. This is a £5 million scheme to bring together people from diverse communities and different faiths to get to know each other better and help them improve their local neighbourhoods. Faith groups play a vital role in our neighbourhoods. Near Neighbours is an investment in the future, supporting grass roots groups and projects to allow communities to get on transforming their neighbourhoods for the better.

The Community Right to Buy, being introduced through the Localism Act, will offer new rights for voluntary groups to protect community resources like leisure centres, village halls and libraries. Groups will have the time they need to develop business plans and raise funds. This crucial breathing space will ensure that they are not squeezed out of open market sales of valuable local assets. We have extended funding for the Asset Transfer Unit by £1 million into 2011-12 enabling the unit to continue to offer practical support to communities who want to take on public assets such as youth centres, museums and former town halls for the benefit of local people.

From September 2011, the new "Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency" requires councils to shine the light on local spending, including details of grants to the voluntary sector, as well as all contracts and tenders over £500. This open data initiative will allow greater public scrutiny of local authority support, and make it easier for the voluntary sector to bid to run contracts and services.

As part of our Housing Strategy announced on 21 November 2011, we outlined how we will be providing funding for voluntary groups to bid for funds to renovate and improve empty homes and other types of empty property and get them back into productive use.

The Localism Act also introduces a Community Right to Challenge. Voluntary groups that have a track record of working with their community and delivering results will have the chance to show what they can do to run and improve local services. The new right will put them on the front foot when it comes to taking over a local service and has the potential to open up new funding streams.

We have cut Whitehall and local red tape to make it easier to organise street parties and similar community events. This was particularly aimed at supporting local events for the Royal Wedding; we hope to continue with this initiative to support the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee.

My Department's Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Board is also acting as a forum where the voluntary sector can contribute to the Department's work.

These reforms are in addition to a whole series of other supportive measures to the local voluntary sector being undertaken by other Government Departments, which include:

a £100 million Transition Fund offering financing for the most vulnerable charities.

a £30 million Transforming Local Infrastructure fund to help modernise organisations that supply critical support to frontline charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises.

a £10 million Investment and Contract Readiness Fund being made available to charities and social enterprises to help them develop the skills and infrastructure to win more capital investment and public service.

£600 million capital funding through Big Society Capital, which will offer financing to charities and the voluntary sector.

Simplifying Gift Aid, and encouraging legacy-giving by reducing the rate of inheritance tax for those estates leaving 10% or more to charity.

Metal Theft

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on local authority powers to prevent the disposal of stolen goods, including scrap metal and jewellery; and if he will make a statement. [84778]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* Local authorities are expected to work with police forces and other law enforcement organisations where possible to tackle the disposal of stolen goods, utilising their existing powers, including trading standards, as appropriate. In relation to scrap metal, local authorities have a duty under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 to register scrap metal dealers in their area and certain powers of entry which may assist in identifying illegal behaviour. The Government are currently reviewing what further steps can be taken to help tackle metal theft.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Leader of the House what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85067]

Sir George Young: I have answered all 13 named day questions on the named day during the last six months.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis

and will provide full information to the committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

EDUCATION

Children in Care

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will enhance the specification of the SSDA903 return to identify when a child who has been adopted from care returns to care in a different local authority area. [82416]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not collect data on the number of adoptions that break down and where the child returns to care. The Department is funding Bristol university to conduct research on the rate of and reasons for breakdowns in adoption. Findings from the research will inform decisions on whether we ask for additional data from local authorities.

Children: Day Care

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the average cost of childcare in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region of England in each of the last five years. [84708]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The Department's annual Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the mean average hourly fees charged by some registered child care providers in England, nationally and by region. The 2009 survey did not collect this data, and the latest available survey is for 2010. The available figures for the five years from 2006 to 2010 are as follows:

Average hourly fees by child care provider and by Government Office Region

£

	Full day care				Sessional				Childminders			
	2010	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*	*2010*	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*	*2010*	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*
Overall mean average hourly fee	3.70	3.50	3.20	2.70	3.00	2.30	2.30	1.90	3.80	3.60	3.60	3.20
East Midlands	[1]3.20	3.60	[3]—	2.70	[1]2.80	[3]—	[2]—	1.60	[1]3.20	3.20	[1]5.90	2.90
East	3.60	3.50	[2]—	2.60	3.10	2.30	[2]—	2.00	4.00	3.60	3.40	3.30
London	4.70	4.60	[2]—	2.90	[1]3.60	2.40	[2]—	2.10	4.70	4.30	4.20	3.90
North East	[3]—	3.20	[2]—	[4]2.60	[3]—	[3]—	[2]—	[4]1.60	[5]3.30	3.20	[4]2.90	[4]3.00
Yorkshire and Humberside	[1]3.50	3.00	[2]—	[4]—	[1]2.80	2.20	[2]—	[4]—	3.30	3.20	[5]—	[4]—
North West	3.50	3.60	[2]—	2.60	[1]2.50	2.10	[2]—	1.60	[1]3.30	3.00	[1]2.90	2.90
South East	3.80	3.50	[2]—	2.80	3.60	2.60	[2]—	2.20	4.10	3.80	3.80	3.40
South West	3.60	3.30	[2]—	2.80	[1]2.80	2.30	[2]—	1.90	3.70	3.60	[1]3.20	3.10
West Midlands	3.30	2.90	[2]—	2.70	[1]2.60	[3]—	[2]—	2.40	[1]3.30	3.00	[1]2.80	2.80

[1] Signifies a cell where data should be treated with caution due to a low base size between 50 and 100.
[2] Regional data on fees for full day care and sessional are not available for 2007.
[3] Signifies a cell where data have not been included due to a base of less than 50.
[4] Indicates a brace.
[5] North East and Yorkshire and Humberside were considered as a single region for Childminders, so these figures represent the combined average for those regions.
Note:
Data on hourly fees were not collected in 2009 due to the reduced nature of the survey.
Source:
Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010

Children: Missing Persons

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the children in care and adoption performance tables, November 2011, whether he is satisfied that no children went missing in *(a)* Knowsley, *(b)* St Helens, *(c)* Rochdale, *(d)* Kirklees, *(e)* South Gloucestershire, *(f)* Hartlepool, *(g)* Redcar and Cleveland, *(h)* Stockton-on-Tees, *(i)* city of Kingston upon Hull, *(j)* Bedford borough, *(k)* central Bedfordshire, *(l)* Bournemouth, *(m)* Durham, *(n)* East Sussex, *(o)* Rutland, *(p)* Reading, *(q)* Blackpool, *(r)* Hackney, *(s)* Manchester, *(t)* Derby, *(u)* Leicester, *(v)* Cambridgeshire, *(w)* Kent, *(x)* Lancashire, *(y)* Nottingham, *(z)* Lincolnshire and *(aa)* Oxfordshire between 2008 and 2010; and if he will make a statement. [83346]

Tim Loughton: The adoption and performance tables show a three year average of children absent from their agreed placement for more than 24 hours as a percentage of looked after children. The figures for *(a)* Knowsley, *(b)* St Helens, *(c)* Rochdale, *(d)* Kirklees, *(e)* South Gloucestershire, *(f)* Hartlepool, *(g)* Redcar and Cleveland, *(h)* Stockton-on-Tees, *(i)* city of Kingston upon Hull, *(j)* Bedford borough, *(k)* central Bedfordshire, *(l)* Bournemouth, *(m)* Durham, *(n)* East Sussex, *(o)* Rutland, *(p)* Reading, and *(q)* Blackpool are zero. For these local authorities no looked after child is recorded as being absent from their agreed placement in each of the years 2008 to 2010.

For the local authorities, *(r)* Hackney, *(s)* Manchester, *(t)* Derby, *(u)* Leicester, *(v)* Cambridgeshire, *(w)* Kent, *(x)* Lancashire, *(y)* Nottingham, *(z)* Lincolnshire and *(aa)* Oxfordshire the three year average is shown as "-". This symbol in the tables indicates that the percentage of looked after children recorded as being absent from their agreed placement for more than 24 hours for the years 2008 to 2010 is lower than 0.5%. Therefore for these local authorities, there are some children recorded as being absent from their agreed placement for more than 24 hours at some point during the period 2008 to 2010.

The information published in the Children in Care and Adoption Performance Tables was sourced from the Department's SSDA903 collection. This collection is returned annually by local authorities. Local authorities are responsible for checking their data and, once they are confident that they are accurate, must sign them off. All local authorities signed off the data for the years in question.

The data go through extensive validation to support local authorities in ensuring that their final data is correct. Once these data have been finalised, statisticians perform extensive quality assurance of the data. I can therefore be satisfied that the data shown in these tables are an accurate reflection of the situation regarding children absent from their agreed placement for each local authority named in the question.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible. [83793]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education's and its public bodies' caterers use eggs that are Lion Branded and sourced from enriched cages as a minimum standard. From 1 January 2012 all eggs and egg products will be sourced from enhanced conventional cages.

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what receptions and events have been hosted by his Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by a third party. [84195]

Tim Loughton: The information requested is not held centrally and to gather this information would represent disproportionate costs.

Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [83794]

Tim Loughton: The information is as follows.

1. The Department for Education's and its public bodies' caterers are British Farm Assured Accredited for fresh meat and poultry and Marine Stewardship Council accredited for fish. The award of Red Tractor accreditation ensures that all fresh meat and poultry is British produced. The majority of fish used within the contracts area are also sourced from British waters.

2. Wherever practical, and subject to the cost of the supply, bacon used within the catering provision is British sourced.

3. Subject to seasonal availability, fruit and vegetable products conform to Linking Environment and Farming environmental standards and are sourced from British suppliers.

4. Specific data are not held. The Department has contractual catering arrangements in place to ensure that food procurement complies with the Government Buying Standards for Food and catering in relation to food purchase and provision.

Free Schools

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects of *(a)* free schools and *(b)* academies on educational attainment. [82910]

Mr Gibb: The first free schools opened in September 2011. The high quality of the proposals for these schools, coupled with the fact that they are being run by dedicated individuals, suggests that they will be shown to perform well when performance data are available. Parents clearly agree; over half of these schools are over-subscribed, many with waiting lists to cope with the demand.

On academies, the latest provisional 2011 GCSE results show that results in academies open for two years have improved twice as fast as those in maintained schools. As the number of academies continues to grow, we expect that they will continue to have a positive effect on educational attainment.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment has been made of the effect of the pupil premium on the number of children living in poverty up to 2015. [77227]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 31 October 2011]:* The pupil premium provides additional funding for the most disadvantaged pupils, including those known to be eligible for free school meals, those whose parents are in the armed forces and children who have been in care for more than six months.

The pupil premium is aimed at narrowing the gap in educational attainment between children from deprived backgrounds and other pupils in a school. It is not intended to impact directly on the number of children living in poverty by 2015 but it is intended to allow schools to provide disadvantaged children with additional support where they need it to help them reach their potential by improving their attainment, aspiration and progression into adulthood. This is a key strand of our approach to improving the life chances of children and preventing them from becoming the next generation of disadvantaged parents.

Schools will be accountable for narrowing the attainment gap for disadvantaged children. We will reform performance tables to include new measures that show the attainment of pupils who receive the pupil premium compared with their peers. We will also ask schools to report to parents on an annual basis how they have used the pupil premium.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people under the age of 18 years have been treated for alcohol-induced illness by NHS hospitals since January 2011. [84865]

Anne Milton: Provisional figures show that there were an estimated 7,074 admissions of people under the age of 18 years that have been treated for alcohol-induced illness[1] by national health service hospitals since January 2011.

[1] In 2007, the Department commissioned the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO) to undertake a review of the epidemiological literature to identify those conditions where there is significant evidence of a causal relationship between alcohol consumption and the disease or injury, NWPHO's findings were published in "Alcohol-attributable fractions for England, Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions", June 2008.

This is shown in a table that has been placed in the Library. The data in the table should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.

Some conditions (such as alcoholic liver disease or ethanol poisoning) are wholly attributed to alcohol consumption (that is, alcohol consumption is the sole cause).

Other conditions (cancer of the oesophagus and assaults) are only partially attributed to alcohol consumption (that is, alcohol consumption causes the illness in some cases). For these conditions, estimates of the fraction of cases that can be attributed to alcohol, were produced by combining information from epidemiological studies about the increased risks associated with different levels of alcohol consumption with information from population surveys about self-reported consumption.

These "alcohol-attributable fractions" are applied to data on hospital admissions to estimate the number of admissions where the patient has been diagnosed with a condition caused by alcohol consumption. For example, it is estimated that 32% of cancers of the oesophagus among men aged 16 to 24 in England can be attributed to alcohol consumption. The estimate of the number of admissions where men aged 16 to 24 have been diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus that can be attributed to alcohol consumption is obtained by multiplying the total number of admissions where men aged 16 to 24 have been diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus by 32%.

Cannabis: Children

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* people and *(b)* people under the age of 18 years were treated for cannabis-induced psychosis in each of the last two years. [84740]

Anne Milton: Data on the number of people treated for cannabis-induced psychosis are not collected centrally. However, data on the number of finished admissions episodes with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids are collected and presented in the following table:

Count of finished admission episodes (FAE) with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids (ICD10 code F12)

	Number of people treated	Number of people aged under 18	Number of people aged 18 and over	Age not known
2009-10	713	93	617	3
2010-11	799	87	710	2

Notes:
1. A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital. ICD10 Code used = F12 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids (including cannabis).
3. Data quality—HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English national health service. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
4. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures, which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.
5. Activity included—activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Contraception

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his proposed timetable is for development of a Quality Standard for contraceptive services, including emergency contraception; and if he will make a statement. [84601]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) jointly with the National Quality Board recently ran an engagement exercise on the development of a library of NICE Quality Standard topics for the national health service. The list of proposed Quality Standard topics published as part of this exercise included contraceptive services (including emergency contraception). The engagement exercise closed on 14 October 2011.

Further information on the engagement exercise can be found at:

www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/currentniceconsultations/NQBEngagement.jsp

An announcement on next steps will be made once the responses have been analysed.

Departmental Advertising

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advertising campaigns his Department has run in each of the last five years; and what the cost was of each such campaign. [84555]

Mr Simon Burns: The following tables show the Department's advertising expenditure carried out through the Communications Directorate over each of the last five financial years for which full information is available, by campaign.

Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, Central Office of Information (COI) commission and VAT). All figures exclude advertising rebates and audit adjustments and therefore may differ from COI official turnover figures. All figures are rounded to the nearest £10,000. These figures do not include Departmental recruitment/classified advertising costs and ad hoc spend under £10,000. These figures may include occasional minor spend through COI by national health service organisations, to supplement national campaigns in their area. While this expenditure has been excluded as far as possible so that this chart reflects central departmental spend, it would incur disproportionate cost to validate that every item of NHS expenditure has been removed.

A total budget figure for the current financial year cannot be provided at this stage as detailed planning for some campaigns is under way and advertising media allocations have not yet been finalised.

Department of Health advertising spend

£ million

Campaign	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Alcohol	[1]0.56	[1]0.61	[1]4.77	3.25	0.00
Antibiotics	0.00	0.39	1.15	0.00	0.00
Cancer signs and symptoms	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42
Change4Life	0.00	0.00	7.69	9.20	1.61
Drugs[1]	1.34	0.67	1.45	1.42	0.01
Flu (immunisation)	1.11	0.98	1.42	0.17	0.00
Hepatitis C	0.52	1.34	1.30	1.04	0.00
HPV vaccination	0.00	0.00	2.80	3.73	0.00
Immunisation	1.66	0.00	0.32	0.24	0.00
National dementia strategy	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.58	0.59
NHS injury benefits scheme	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
NHS Choices	0.00	0.03	0.55	0.00	0.00
NHS 111	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11
Patient Choice	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.00
Pandemic flu	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.24	0.00
Respiratory and hand hygiene	0.00	0.32	1.53	2.63	0.79
Sexual health/ teenage pregnancy	2.88	3.11	2.83	7.67	0.00
Social care/ worker recruitment	2.31	2.22	2.03	2.99	0.00
Smoking—tobacco control	13.17	10.79	23.38	14.60	1.05
Stroke	0.00	0.00	4.52	2.24	0.54
Tobacco legislation	0.32	5.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
5-a-Day	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
EHIC/EHIC	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00
Lifecheck	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.28	0.00
Total	23.92	26.24	56.43	60.28	4.21

[1] Departmental contribution to campaign run jointly with Home Office

Departmental Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85048]

Mr Simon Burns: Between 1 June and 30 November 2011, 635 written questions for answer on a named day were received. 100% received a substantive answer on the date for answer.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Social Care Funding

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the Government's response to the Dilnot Commission's report Fairer Funding for All. [84853]

Paul Burstow: On 4 July this year, the Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), set out the Government's initial response to the report of the Commission on Funding of Care and Support.

The Government welcomed this report, which is an immensely valuable contribution to meeting the long-term challenge of an ageing population.

Government have spent the last few months engaging with stakeholders from across the care and support community to ensure that we get funding reform—and social care reform more broadly—right.

As the Secretary of State set out in his July statement, the Government plan to publish a social care White Paper and a progress report on funding reform in the spring. We remain committed to this timetable.

Drugs: Young People

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* people, *(b)* under 18 year olds, *(c)* under 16 year olds and *(d)* under 12 year olds were given drug rehabilitation treatment for each type of drug since January 2011. [84864]

Anne Milton: The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System records information about substance misuse interventions in England. Data on adults (18 and over) in contact with drug treatment agencies and general practitioners in England in 2010-11 were published as "Statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011". A copy has been placed in the Library. The young people's annual statistics for 2010-11 will be published by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse on 8 December and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Food: Labelling

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the differences are between the targets put in place by the Food Standards Agency prior to May 2010 and the targets in the responsibility deal in respect of *(a)* salt reduction, *(b)* saturated fat reduction and reformulation, *(c)* front of pack

nutrition labelling and traffic light colour coding and *(d)* information on healthy choices when eating out; and if he will make a statement. [84475]

Anne Milton: The Responsibility Deal has the same salt reduction targets as those developed by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), with a modification to the average and maximum targets for breakfast cereals. As a result, the Responsibility Deal targets have the potential to remove more salt from our foods than those set by the FSA.

The FSA published recommendations for saturated fat for a number of food categories in March 2010. There are currently no Responsibility Deal targets for saturated fat and reformulation. Work on saturated fat will be part of the next phase of the Responsibility Deal.

The FSA had no targets associated with front of pack labelling or the use of traffic light labelling and there are currently no Responsibility Deal pledges in this area.

The FSA had no targets associated with information on healthy eating when eating out. The Responsibility Deal has a pledge for businesses to provide calorie information for food and non-alcoholic drinks in out of home settings from 1 September 2011.

Health Professions: Training

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training posts have been funded for *(a)* nurses, *(b)* doctors and *(c)* other clinical staff in each of the last 10 years. [83182]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the total population of doctors across all grades of training from 2001 to 2010:

Total number of doctors in training in England—at 30 September 2001 to 2010

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Hospital and community services doctors in training and equivalents	32,005	33,932	36,402	40,654	43,295	45,422	46,051	48,298	51,216	51,397
General practice registrars	1,811	1,907	2,153	2,454	2,435	2,190	2,409	3,055	3,659	3,718
Total number of doctors in training	33,816	35,839	38,554	43,108	45,729	47,613	48,460	51,353	54,875	55,115

Notes:
1. Figures are shown as full-time equivalents
2. The Modernising Medical Careers programme saw the introduction of new training grades, changes in categorisation and reorganisation of training staff. Evidence of these changes were first reflected in 2007, within the component staff of the doctors in training and equivalents group (particularly registrar group and senior house officers).
3.Doctors in training and equivalents refers to the registrar group, senior house officer, foundation year 2, house officer and foundation programme year 1, other doctors in training and other staff at these grades that do not hold an educationally approved training post.
Source:
NHS work force census

The Department does not collect population data for the number of nurses and other clinical staff in training each year. However, the latest figures available show that, in 2010-11, the population of nurses in training was 53,101 and other non-medical trainees was 36,258, giving a total non-medical trainee population of 89,359. The following table shows the number of new nursing and other non medical staff courses that were commissioned in each financial year since 2001-02.

Non-medical commissions by strategic health authorities (SHAs) in England 2001-02 to 2010-11

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Nursing commissions	20,624	21,523	22,815	23,369	20,308	21,199	19,352	20,664	20,829	20,092
Other non-medical commissions	9,250	11,819	13,536	14,508	13,842	14,124	13,992	16,726	16,225	16,401
Total non-medical commissions	29,874	33,342	36,351	37,877	34,150	35,323	33,344	37,390	37,054	36,493

Source:
SHA Multi Professional Education and Training monitoring returns

Health Services

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been treated by the NHS in the last 12 months. [83183]

Mr Simon Burns: The available information is shown in the following table:

Out-patient and in-patient hospital activity, England (commissioner based)

	Out-patients					In-patients
Quarter	First attendances seen	Subsequent attendances seen	Total attendances seen	Elective general and acute FFCEs	Non-elective general and acute FFCEs	Total general and acute FFCEs
Q3 2010-11	4,105,634	8,528,525	12,634,159	1,771,893	1,394,031	3,165,924
Q4 2010-11	4,198,682	9,092,643	13,291,325	1,812,254	1,366,621	3,178,875
Q1 2011-12	4,134,870	8,765,011	12,899,881	1,775,676	1,327,206	3,102,882

Out-patient and in-patient hospital activity, England (commissioner based)

	Out-patients					In-patients
Quarter	First attendances seen	Subsequent attendances seen	Total attendances seen	Elective general and acute FFCEs	Non-elective general and acute FFCEs	Total general and acute FFCEs
Q2 2011-12	4,254,577	8,931,242	13,185,819	1,856,423	1,318,853	3,175,276
Sum of the four quarters	16,693,763	35,317,421	52,011,184	7,216,246	5,406,711	12,622,957

Note:
The out-patient attendances are for all specialties. The in-patient First Finished Consultant Episodes (FFCEs) are for general and acute specialties only. General and acute does not include maternity, mental illness and learning disability.
Source:
Department of Health Quarterly Activity Return (QAR) for out-patient attendances and Monthly Activity Return (MAR) for in-patient FFCEs

Health Services: Finance

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to ensure that the Health Premium does not divert resources from the areas with the highest level of continuing health problems. [84477]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is developing a health premium that will incentivise local authorities to make improvements in health and reduce health inequalities. Those areas with the worst health problems will see the greatest incentive because they face the greatest challenges.

Detailed work on the health premium can only begin once the baseline spend is known and after the publication of the Public Health Outcomes Framework. More information will be published as soon as possible after that so that local authorities know what is expected of them to receive an incentive payment.

Health: Children

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will prepare and publish a strategy for improving children's health. [84476]

Anne Milton: In the Government's new vision for the national health service and public health we have made explicit our determination to provide high quality services for children and young people as an essential and integral part of delivering better health outcomes.

Since the publication in September 2010 of "Achieving Equity and Excellence for children", Ministers and officials have worked with the children's sector to develop a focus on improving children's health in the reformed health and public health system. Subject to parliamentary approval, the new framework will enable a more robust, focused and comprehensive approach to child health.

A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library.

Health: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with London boroughs on the Government's public health reforms. [84817]

Anne Milton: A pan-London Delivery board exists to support and co-ordinate public health reforms in London. This board is co-chaired by the regional director of public health and the chief executive of Bromley council on behalf of London boroughs.

Last year, the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), wrote to the Mayor of London inviting further proposals for the optimal public health improvement system for London. Early this year, the Mayor and London councils responded positively with their proposal to set up a London Health Improvement Board. The Department is working with the Greater London authority and London boroughs in considering how best to take the proposals forward.

Hospital Beds

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* acute and *(b)* critical care beds were reported in situation reports to his Department as being in use in hospitals in each week since 1 April 2011. [84884]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect data on bed numbers in weekly situation reports. The information collected by the Department on a monthly and quarterly basis since April 2011 is provided in the following tables.

England level

		Average number of available general and acute beds under care of a consultant	
Year	Period	Overnight beds	Day only beds
2011-12	Q1	104,620	10,601
2011-12	Q2	105,673	11,381

Source:
KH03 quarterly return

England level

		Number of beds open at last Thursday in reporting period		
Year	Period	Number of adult critical care beds	Number of paediatric intensive care beds	Number of neonatal critical care cots (or beds)
2011-12	April	3,707	393	1,283
2011-12	May	3,706	398	1,286
2011-12	June	3,683	402	1,267
2011-12	July	3,706	392	1,281
2011-12	August	3,704	396	1,269
2011-12	September	3,718	409	1,267
2011-12	October	3,728	396	1,289

Source:
Unify2 data collection—Monthly situation reports

Influenza

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to provide information on the steps that the public should take to minimise the risk of transmission and infection in the event of an influenza pandemic. [84473]

Anne Milton: On 10 November 2011, the Government launched the UK Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Strategy 2011. The Strategy has already been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_130903

This United Kingdom wide Strategy aims to ensure that the UK continues to be one of the best-prepared countries in the world.

In the event of a pandemic, the Government will use a wide range of media to communicate information effectively to the public. Until the characteristics of any emerging virus are known, plans remain flexible, but are likely to include regular press briefings, via the Chief Medical Officer and other trusted health professionals, key websites and social media as well as paid-for advertising where appropriate.

Information may also be made available directly to the public through telephone help lines and other interactive channels. The Department will also work closely with potential partners from the commercial and voluntary sectors to develop ways for them to disseminate urgent public health messages to their customers and members.

Influenza: Vaccination

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of likely take-up rates of the influenza vaccine in each *(a)* age group, *(b)* category of at-risk group and *(c)* geographical area. [84617]

Anne Milton: The chief medical officer (CMO) wrote to the national health service on 14 March 2011 setting out the planning assumptions for vaccine uptake for the current flu season. The CMO stated that the NHS in England should plan to achieve a vaccine uptake rate of at least 75% among people aged 65 and over, and to vaccinate at least 60% of those aged under 60 in clinical risk groups.

The CMO letter can be viewed at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_125091

A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.

Liver Diseases: Children

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged *(a)* under 10 years and *(b)* 10 years and over were admitted to hospital with a diagnosis of (i) non-alcoholic fatty liver and (ii) diabetes since January 2011. [84862]

Anne Milton: Information is not available on the number of patients admitted. The table shows the number of finished admission episodes.

Count of finished admission episodes[1] where primary diagnosis is fatty (change of) liver, not elsewhere classified or diabetes for children aged under 10 years and aged 10-18 since January 2011.

[1] A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission in the year.

Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Primary diagnoses	*Age group*	*January to March 2011*	*April to July 2011 (provisional)*
Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease	0 to 9	6	9
	10 to 18	25	18
Diabetes	0 to 9	622	704
	10 to 18	1,768	2,120

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Maternity Services

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to implement the Maternity Matters policy. [84937]

Anne Milton: "Maternity Matters" (April 2007) was the previous administration's policy for maternity choice. In the White Paper, "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" (July 2010) we set out our commitment to extend maternity choice through provider networks.

By focusing on health outcomes and delivering maternity services through provider networks, we will help to make safe, informed choice throughout pregnancy and in childbirth a reality and to facilitate movement between the different services to meet women's needs and choices.

The Department funded the "Birthplace in England" research study, published by the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit in November 2011, to compare the outcomes of births planned at home, in different types of midwifery unit and in hospital units with obstetric services. This study will help the national health service in their maternity services, based on what women want and need. It will also help midwives advise women so that they can make the most informed choice about their birth setting.

Maternity Services: Finance

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding he is providing to support *(a)* all neonatal care services and *(b)* neonatal intensive care services during the comprehensive spending review period. [84474]

Anne Milton: The Government have committed to increasing funding in real terms funding for the national health service in every year of the Parliament.

Primary care trust (PCT) recurrent revenue allocations are not broken down by service or policy area. It is for PCTs to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities.

Mental Health Services

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Education, *(b)* Justice, *(c)* Work and Pensions and *(d)* Communities and Local Government about the implementation of the Government's mental health strategy, No Health Without Mental Health; [84866]

Mental Health Services

(2) what steps his Department has taken to implement the Government's mental health strategy, No Health Without Mental Health. [84867]

Paul Burstow: "No Health Without Mental Health" highlights that mental health is a priority across Government, and that its ambitions are shared by a number of Government Departments. Most Government Departments have plans of action that will improve mental health outcomes.

The Cabinet sub-Committee on Public Health is where these plans are brought together, and where the Government will oversee progress on this strategy. The Cabinet Committee on Social Justice will also help to ensure that there is effective cross-Government action to address many of the social causes of mental health problems.

Since publication, the Department has worked to further the aims of the strategy through a number of routes. These include the recently-published national health service (NHS) operating framework which highlights mental health services and specifically "No Health without Mental Health" and makes it clear that this should be a priority for primary care trust commissioning.

Mental health is reflected in the outcomes frameworks for the NHS and adult social care, and in the draft outcomes framework for public health.

Implementation will also be supported through the introduction of payment by results and improved outcome measures for mental health within the NHS.

We have established a Ministerial Advisory Group for the mental health strategy to work in partnership to realise this strategy. The group brings together Government, relevant national bodies, commissioners, mental health provider organisations, voluntary and community sector organisations, and people with mental health problems and carers.

Proposals to develop a full implementation framework for the strategy were agreed by the Ministerial Advisory Group in October 2011.

The framework will be co-produced and jointly owned by national mental health organisations, with involvement and engagement from organisations across the sector, in partnership with Government Departments.

Mental Illness

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people with *(a)* mild to moderate and *(b)* severe mental illness (i) in January 2011 and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available. [84606]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect this information.

The most recent data on the proportion of adults with mental disorders are from the 2007 Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Census (APMS). Data from this report are as follows:

Prevalence based on 2007 APMS

	All adults (Percentage)
Any common mental disorder (includes anxiety and depression)	16.2
Psychotic disorder	0.4

Source:
Adult Psychiatric Morbidity in England, 2007: results of a household survey: www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/psychiatricmorbidity07

Mental Illness: Children

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people aged under 18 years diagnosed with a mental disorder for each type of disorder (i) in January 2011 and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available. [84605]

Paul Burstow: No estimate has been made but information on the prevalence of mental disorders in children and young people has been published by other organisations.

For example, in the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents in Great Britain, 2004 the Office for National Statistics reported that 9.6% of five to 16 year-olds had a clinically recognisable mental disorder. Of these, 5.8% had a conduct disorder, 3.7% had emotional disorders (anxiety and depression), 1.5% had hyperkinetic (hyperactive) disorders and 0.3% had eating disorders. Some children had more than one disorder. The same survey showed that among five-ten year-olds 10.2% of boys and 5.1% of girls had a clinically recognisable mental disorder. In the older age group, 11 to 16 year-olds, 12.6% of boys and 10.3% of girls had a clinically recognisable mental disorder.

Mental Illness: Young People

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* people and *(b)* people under 18 years of age were treated for cannabis-induced psychosis (i) since January 2011 and (ii) in the previous 12 months. [84861]

Anne Milton: Data on the number of people treated for cannabis-induced psychosis are not collected centrally. However, data on the number of finished admissions episodes with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids are collected and presented in the following tables.

Count of finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids (ICD10 code F12), since January 2011

	Number of people treated	*Number of people aged under 18*	*Number of people aged 18 and over*	*Age not known*
January 2011	69	4	65	0
February 2011	51	4	47	0
March 2011	74	9	65	0

Count of finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids (ICD10 code F12), January 2010-December 2010

	Number of people treated	*Number of people aged under 18*	*Number of people aged 18 and over*	*Age not known*
January 2010	60	8	52	0
February 2010	56	9	47	0
March 2010	56	10	46	0
April 2010	74	9	65	0
May 2010	79	11	68	0
June 2010	69	5	64	0
July 2010	78	6	71	1

Count of finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids (ICD10 code F12), January 2010-December 2010

	Number of people treated	Number of people aged under 18	Number of people aged 18 and over	Age not known
August 2010	71	8	63	0
September 2010	47	6	41	0
October 2010	61	12	49	0
November 2010	64	5	58	1
December 2010	62	8	54	0

Notes:

1. A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital. ICD10 Code used = F12 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids (including cannabis).
3. Data quality—HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
4. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.
5. Activity included—activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust: Information and Communications Technology

Mr Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when development commenced on the Lorenzo IT system at University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust; and when he expects the system to be deployed; [84313]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* Connecting for Health staff and *(b)* contractors in support of the development and deployment of the Lorenzo IT system at University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust since the start of the project. [84315]

Mr Simon Burns: Development of the Lorenzo computer system started at University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay National Health Service Foundation Trust in August 2008. The trust has implemented the following elements of the system: Requests and Results/Clinical Documentation; Care Management and To Take Out (out-patient department) Prescribing and plans to implement the Emergency Care element in 2012. The support costs provided to date by NHS Connecting for Health staff are estimated to be £460,000 and an estimated £3,734,000 spent on contractors.

Mr Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the amount of funding from *(a)* Connecting for Health and *(b)* the NHS which has been spent to date to support the development of the Lorenzo IT system at the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust; [85097]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to date to the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust of the development and deployment of the Lorenzo IT system. [85100]

Mr Simon Burns: A total of £2.16 million has been provided to University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay National Health Service Foundation Trust in their role as an early adopter for release 1 and 1.9 of the Lorenzo information technology system—£1,158,660 from NHS Connecting for Health and £1,007,000 from the NHS.

These costs do not include payments for the system to the local service provider, which are only made when the deployment has been proved successful. To date, a payment of £0.3 million has been made by NHS Connecting for Health for the deployment of the first release of the Lorenzo IT system at the trust. No payments have been made for subsequent releases. Total costs payable to the supplier are dependent on which functionality is deployed at the trust.

The trust estimate their total costs to be £6.2 million from their involvement with the programme. These relate to user training, project management, additional computer equipment and additional corporate reporting tools. In addition to the £2.16 million funding from Connecting for Health and the NHS, £3.2 million funding has been provided by the local service provider, with a further £0.8 million expected before 31 March 2012.

NHS: Manpower

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of future levels of staffing in the NHS; and what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the number of Tier 2 visas that may have to be issued to meet future NHS staffing needs. [84729]

Mr Simon Burns: Local national health service organisations are best placed to decide on the work force needs for their community, according to local circumstances and priorities, with assurance and challenge regionally and nationally.

The Migration Advisory Committee is consulting on policies towards skilled economic migrants from April 2012, including the level of the limits on Tier 2 visas.

The Department of Health will be responding to the consultation and will continue to work closely with the Home Office and stakeholders to ensure that the NHS is not adversely affected by the review of the Tier 2 limits.

North Bristol NHS Trust: Information and Communications Technology

Mr Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when development commenced on the Cerner Millennium IT system at North Bristol NHS Trust; and when he expects the system to be deployed; [84312]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* Connecting for Health staff and *(b)* contractors in support of the development and deployment of the Cerner Millennium IT system at North Bristol NHS Trust since the start of the project; [84314]

(3) how much *(a)* Connecting for Health and *(b)* the NHS has spent to support the development of the Cerner Millennium IT system at North Bristol NHS Trust since the start of the project. [84316]

Mr Simon Burns: The project to deliver the Cerner Millennium IT system at North Bristol National Health Service Trust under the BT Local Service Provider contract commenced on 26 April 2010. The trust is planning to start using the system on the 8 December 2011.

The support costs for the deployment of the Cerner Millennium IT system at North Bristol NHS Trust are estimated to be £60,887 for NHS Connecting for Health staff and £585,106 for contractors supplied via the Southern Programme for IT. These costs cover support provided to the trust for test assurance, additional testers and trainers, and extra project management. North Bristol NHS Trust has spent £3.9 million since the start of the project.

NHS Connecting for Health has not directly incurred costs for development of the Cerner Millennium IT system as the configuration of the system has taken place between the supplier, BT and their subcontractor Cerner and the trust.

Mr Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been *(a)* paid to date and *(b)* he expects to be paid in the future to the local service provider for the Cerner Millennium IT system at the North Bristol NHS Trust; [85098]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to date to the North Bristol NHS Trust of the development and deployment of the Cerner Millennium IT system. [85099]

Mr Simon Burns: No payments have been made to date to the local service provider for the Cerner Millennium information technology system at the North Bristol NHS Trust. Payment will be made 45 days after delivery of a working system, which is planned for 8 December 2011. Once the deployment has been proved successful by the trust, a one-off deployment charge of £15.2 million will be made followed by an annual service charge of £2 million, only payable while the trust continues to use the system. These figures are in 2009-10 prices.

North Bristol NHS Trust has spent £3.9 million since the start of the project for the development and deployment of the Cerner Millennium IT system.

Obesity: Females

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce obesity among women. [84547]

Anne Milton: The Government are concerned about the prevalence of obesity in women. As set out in "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A call to action on obesity in England", we are taking a life course approach with the aim of reducing levels of overweight and obesity in adults and children.

The "Call to action" sets out the key role for central Government, for local areas in developing approaches which work best for local communities and for specific population groups facing the greatest challenges, and for other partners.

A copy of the "Call to action" has already been placed in the Library.

Radiotherapy

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 537W, on radiotherapy, and the answer of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 458W, on radiotherapy, how stereotactic body radiotherapy treatment will be commissioned under his proposals for the NHS. [84996]

Paul Burstow: Stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) is currently commissioned as a specialised service by regional specialised commissioning groups and as informed by the specialised services national definitions set. The intention, subject to parliamentary approval, is that in the future services such as SBRT for people with rare and complex cancers should be directly commissioned by the National Health Service Commissioning Board (NHSCB).

However, no official decisions have yet been taken on what services will be directly commissioned by the NHSCB from April 2013.

Sex: Health Services

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the indicators for sexual health in the forthcoming Public Health Outcomes Framework meet the needs of women of all ages; and if he will make a statement. [84600]

Anne Milton: We are considering the consultation responses to the Public Health Outcomes Framework, which includes three indicators relevant to sexual health and we will publish that framework very soon. We will also be publishing a new sexual health policy document in spring 2012. This will consider the needs of women of all ages.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's sexual health policy document. [84607]

Anne Milton: The Department plans to publish a sexual health policy document in spring 2012. The document will set sexual health in the context of the proposed new commissioning arrangements and will promote the evidence base for improving sexual health; including behaviour change and links to wider public health issues.

Smoking

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to provide information for the public on the effects of inhaling second hand tobacco smoke. [84471]

Anne Milton: Second hand smoke is a serious health hazard, and there is no safe level of exposure. While smokefree legislation has removed second hand smoke from enclosed work and public places, people can still be exposed to it at home or in family cars.

In March, the Department published "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England", which sets out the Government's plans to tackle tobacco use over the next five years. This plan includes our commitment to launch a national marketing campaign,

planned for spring 2012, to remind smokers of the risks of exposing children and adults to second hand smoke. We want people to recognise the risks of second hand smoke and decide voluntarily to make their homes and family cars smokefree.

In addition, the NHS Smokefree website:

www.nhs.uk/smokefree

contains information on the harms of second hand smoke. Materials, including leaflets, are also made available by the Department on the harms of second hand smoke for use by local areas.

A copy of "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A Tobacco Control Plan for England" has already been in the Library.

Smoking: Motor Vehicles

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the evidence presented to the inquiry on smoking in private vehicles by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health. [85002]

Anne Milton: The Department has received a copy of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health's report on smoking in private vehicles. This report is currently under consideration.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the practicalities of enforcing a smoking ban in privately owned vehicles. [85164]

Anne Milton: The Department has not commissioned any specific research on the practicalities of enforcing a smoking ban in privately owned vehicles. However, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health recently conducted an inquiry into smoking in private vehicles. The report of that inquiry, published in November 2011, addresses regulation and enforcement issues with respect to smoking in cars. The All Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health's report is currently under consideration by the Department.

CABINET OFFICE

Government Procurement

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proposals he has made to the European Commission on the simplification of EU rules on government procurement; and if he will make a statement. [83620]

Mr Maude: On 21 November 2011, I put the case to the European Commission in Brussels for a radical simplification of the public procurement directives to reduce costs for business and for procurers.

The details of our proposals are set out in the Government's response to the Commission's Green Paper on the modernisation of EU public procurement policy, which we published in July 2011. This can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/0707UKGPpbResponsefinal%20(2).pdf

Business

Kate Green: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to ensure that public sector spending stimulates growth in the small business sector. [84102]

Mr Maude: On 21 November 2011, I unveiled a radical package of measures that will change how Government buys from the private sector in a way that supports business and promotes growth:

Government will provide an open door for current and future suppliers to discuss forthcoming procurement opportunities, cutting the time taken in the procurement process, and working with industry to identify and address any key capabilities needed to meet future demand.

We will publish a pipeline of potential business opportunities across Government, giving an unprecedented view into the Government's expected future requirements and helping business to build the confidence to invest in plants, machinery and people.

We will work with Departments to ensure that SMEs can access the value of procurement, including where relevant encouraging or challenging prime contractors to do more, or breaking up large contracts.

We will make it 40% faster to do business with Government so that, from January, all but the most complex procurement processes will be completed within 120 working days compared to the average of 200 days now.

And we will require all civil servants responsible for running major procurements to be trained in the Government's new approach.

These measures build on the earlier initiatives to support SMEs that we announced in February.

Communities First Programme

Michael Dugher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the potential role of the *(a)* Community Organisers programme and *(b)* Community First scheme in tackling social exclusion. [85283]

Mr Hurd: The Government recognise that supporting the most disadvantaged is a key part of the big society approach which focuses on enabling all groups in society to be able to play their part.

The Community Organisers programme aims to stimulate and support greater social action, particularly in areas of high deprivation. Both the National Partner, Locality, and their training partner, RE:generate, have a strong history of supporting and working with people from disadvantaged backgrounds. RE:generate's method, Listening Matters, focuses on having conversations with as many people as possible to find out their issues and their opinions, thereby ensuring that everyone's voice is heard, and not just those that speak the loudest.

The Community First programme is designed to encourage people to come together to make their neighbourhood a better place to live. The focus is on building social capital, encouraging 'bonding and bridging' within and between different parts of a neighbourhood. The design of the programme is underpinned with principles from Community Organising, ensuring that improvements are community-led and that people take responsibility for those things that they can do themselves.

Federation of Small Businesses

Roger Williams: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions he has met the Federation of Small Businesses to discuss the role of public sector spending in stimulating small business growth. [84057]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* There have been no meetings with the Federation of Small Businesses. Details of ministerial meetings with external organisations are published on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

Government Procurement

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what effect the Growth Review and Procurement Review will have on ensuring that Government tenders include an assessment of the *(a)* jobs, *(b)* tax revenues, *(c)* potential benefits to the domestic manufacturing supply chain and *(d)* welfare costs associated with jobs moving overseas in assessing the value for money of bids; and whether these factors will be assessed when assessing tenders for new nuclear power stations. [81370]

Mr Maude: On 21 November 2011, I announced a new approach to ensure the huge purchasing power of Government supports the task of boosting growth, and enables the Government to actively shape the UK market for the long term.

This approach is reflected in the autumn statement and associated documentation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), published on 29 November 2011. This can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/as2011_index.htm

Industrial Disputes: Voluntary Organisations

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his policy is on encouraging voluntary groups to maintain key services during periods of industrial action. [84479]

Mr Maude: All public services are expected to have robust contingency plans in place to minimise any disruption to essential services from a wide range of challenges including industrial action. Such plans will look to reprioritise activities and resources as appropriate, manage demand, and draw in additional staffing and expertise where necessary, including from the voluntary sector.

Public Sector: Trade Union Officials

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will issue a standard facility time agreement to public sector employers which sets out *(a)* duties which can be undertaken, *(b)* procedures for approval of such facilities time and *(c)* provision for the publication of (i) each instance of such facilities time and (ii) the cost of such time. [84623]

Mr Maude: The Government intend to commence consultation shortly with the nationally recognised civil service trade unions on facility time. The aim of the consultation is to introduce a new framework for the provision of facility time and time off for trade union activities in the civil service.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Bureaucracy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what progress her Department has made on reducing administrative burdens for farmers; [80770]

(2) what steps her Department has taken since its announcement that farmers with the best track records on environmental protection and animal welfare could have fewer inspections. [80784]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my written statement of 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 40-41WS and the interim response to the independent Farm Regulation Task Force, which set out the work that is being done to apply and implement the recommendations made by the task force. I was also pleased to announce changes to the animal welfare inspection regime in Great Britain at the same time, in response to the recent public consultation. In particular, that from January 2012, we will concentrate most cross compliance inspections on those farms that have the highest risk of non compliance, recognising that members of livestock assurance or organic certification schemes have been shown to be lower risk.

Biofuels: Imports

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the likely effects of importation of woody material to the UK for biomass consumption on the price of *(a)* wood for use in furniture and building and *(b)* food in exporting countries. [83031]

Mr Paice: International wood prices are determined by a number of complex variables such as the demand for wood across different sectors (e.g. paper and pulp and energy), the supply of raw material from both domestic and international sources, and exchange rate fluctuations. The international nature of the markets also makes the establishment of direct links between use patterns and prices extremely difficult. Industries that tend to use imported material will mainly be affected by fluctuations in the international prices, while those that do not have such close links with the international markets are less likely to see such strong effects.

Currently there is not enough historical data to provide firm information about the link between imported biomass for use in the energy sector and the impact on prices for other sectors. DEFRA has been working with the Department for Energy and Climate Change, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and other Departments, as well as representatives from industry, including the agriculture, energy, and wood panelling sectors, to understand the evidence base in this complex area.

On the domestic biomass supply side (as set out in the Woodfuel Implementation Plan of June 2011), Forestry Commission England is working to bring more existing private woodlands into active management to help supply both fuel and non-fuel markets. In addition, increased demand for bioenergy may lead to upward pressure on the price of sawdust and other coproducts from furniture makers and other wood processors.

In the short term, woody biomass imports are likely to continue to come from existing forests. If these are sustainably managed, it is unlikely that the demand from the bioenergy sector will result in significant land use change or influence food prices.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Nadhim Zahawi: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to monitor the presence of tuberculosis in camelids and the extent of any infection. [75358]

Mr Paice: There is no mandatory TB surveillance programme for camelids because they are not regarded as significant reservoirs of TB infection for other species.

There are no validated, sufficiently accurate and practical diagnostic techniques to routinely screen live camelids for TB. Surveillance for TB infection in camelids in Great Britain relies primarily on notifications of suspected cases detected during post mortem examination by private veterinarians and Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) regional laboratories. Owners and their private veterinarians are under legal obligation to notify such cases to AHVLA.

The July 2011 TB Eradication programme for England includes measures to tackle TB in non-bovine farmed species, including pigs, goats, deer, sheep, alpacas and llamas.

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations her Department has received from welfare organisations on the impact of bovine TB on the welfare and well-being of farmers and their families. [75408]

Mr Paice: In 2009 the Farm Crisis Network published a report entitled 'Stress and Loss: A report on the impact of bovine TB on farming families':

http://www.farmcrisisnetwork.org.uk/tb_support

DEFRA has since worked with this charity to set up a free business support service for TB-affected farmers.

Dangerous Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Association of Chief Police Officers on dangerous dogs. [81043]

Mr Paice: Over the last months, my noble Friend Lord Henley, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Lords), has met with the Assistant Chief Constable of the North Wales police force to discuss the issue of dangerous dogs. Additionally, the Association of Chief Police Officers have been engaged in stakeholder meetings, including one held most recently, on the subject of irresponsible dog ownership which was chaired by my noble Friend, Lord Taylor of Holbeach.

Devolution

Ian Paisley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the outcomes were of the meeting between her Department and the devolved Ministers on 28 October 2011; whether any specific outcomes related to Northern Ireland; and if she will make a statement; [78577]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with her ministerial counterparts in the devolved administrations on Common Agricultural Policy reform. [78624]

Mr Paice: No meeting with the devolved Administration Ministers took place on 28 October. However I and my DEFRA ministerial colleagues meet with our devolved counterparts to discuss Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and other EU matters on a regular basis. Most recently we met to discuss the Commission's package of draft CAP regulations for the next multi annual financial framework period (2014-20) in advance of the UK's response at Agricultural Council on 20 October.

The DEFRA ministerial team also met devolved Ministers with responsibility for policy areas on which DEFRA represents the UK in EU negotiations on 25 October. The meeting discussed the practicalities of working relationships on EU issues, including how to build a spirit of trust and respect, how to maximise the UK's impact on EU policy; and the specific concerns of devolved Administrations regarding the application of EU policies in their regions.

Food Supply

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what long-term assessment she has made of the prospects for UK food security in 2050 arising from the upper and lower limits of the Office for National Statistics' projected population range for 2050. [84820]

Mr Paice: The Office for National Statistics produce population projections for the UK based on a set of demographic assumptions. Their principal projection for the UK in 2050 is 78.4 million. Population projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward and the long-term figures should be treated with great caution.

Our food security depends on access to the world market; and our domestic food industry needs to be able to compete on the world stage. In a world where climate instability can disrupt patterns of production, food security cannot be delivered from a narrow, self-interested, national protectionist stance, or by recommending self-sufficiency.

Earlier this year the Government's chief scientist, Sir John Beddington, published a Foresight report into the Future of Food and Farming which looked at the challenges today and in the future. It explored how we can feed a global population of 9 billion by 2050 healthily and sustainably and identified hunger and environmental degradation as the key problems we face. The Foresight world population figures are derived from United Nations projections.

As an immediate response to the report, DEFRA have signed up to a Foresight Action Plan which will include:

- championing an integrated approach to food security;
- pressing for integration of agricultural GHGs into UNFCCC process;
- taking forward Nagoya work on international biodiversity;
- promoting the importance of sustainable intensification;
- pressing for trade liberalisation and CAP/CFP reform;
- showcasing what can be achieved on food waste reduction within the UK and share best practice; and
- increasing the productivity and competitiveness of UK food and farming and ensure that agriculture and the food sector can contribute fully to the green economy.

Forestry Commission: Termination of Employment

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on exit costs for staff leaving the Forestry Commission in the last year. [84638]

Mr Paice: Following the reductions agreed at the spending review and in line with the Government's determination to tackle the national deficit, the Forestry Commission has been provided with £4.9 million this financial year from the DEFRA Modernisation Fund to support a programme of voluntary early exits, to be spent by 31 March 2012. In addition, the Forestry Commission, a non-ministerial department responsible for operating within its budget allocation, has committed £0.1 million from its own budget for voluntary early exits over this same period.

Forests

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department plans to consult on the interim findings of the independent panel on forestry. [84657]

Mr Paice: The Independent Panel on Forestry's final report is due in spring 2012, although we understand that it will publish a progress report very soon. It is for the Panel to decide on what consultation it will do as part of its work.

Gangmasters Licensing Authority

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the possible effect of the relocation of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority from her Department to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the activities of unlicensed gangmasters in the agricultural sector. [78036]

Mr Paice: There are currently no plans to relocate the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) from DEFRA to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Therefore, no assessment has been made of the effect this might have.

Livestock: Waste Disposal

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has received any evidence of harm to public health or the environment as a result of the burial of fallen stock on a farm. [R] [83931]

Mr Paice: The Department has not received any specific evidence of on-farm burial causing harm to public health or the environment since it was banned in 2003 under the EU Animal By-Products (ABP) Regulation 1774/2002 (and continued in its successor regulation 1069/2009). The ban was made on a precautionary basis influenced by the evidence provided in a number of scientific opinions from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and its predecessor the Scientific Steering Committee. The evidence relating to those opinions identified the following uncertainties:

- location of burial sites;
- potential for transmission of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) from specified risk material buried near the surface was poorly characterised;
- extent to which infectivity would be reduced by burial;
- penetration of prions into leachates and groundwater;
- dangers arising from "re-engineering" in areas where previous burial of TSE contaminated material had occurred.

Palm Oil

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps she has taken to encourage food companies to source palm oil from sustainable sources. [84747]

Mr Paice: In May 2011 DEFRA published a study which mapped UK palm oil supply chains. The project looked at how much palm oil we use, in what products, where it comes from and how much could be considered sustainable. It also looked at the potential actions that could be undertaken to move towards the UK sourcing only sustainably produced palm oil. The project involved businesses from across the industry and its report is available on the research section of DEFRA's website.

Following publication of this study, we have been investigating possible further action in two main areas:

- Work with business groups to explore options for a collaborative voluntary commitment on sustainability of UK palm oil consumption; and
- Developing the business case for including sustainable palm oil requirements in Government Buying Standards.

Reed

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the proportion of thatching reed used in England which was sourced from the UK in each year since 2006. [82719]

Mr Paice: The Government have made no assessment of the proportion of thatching reed used or sourced in the UK.

Sky Lanterns

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on regulating the use of Chinese lanterns in order to protect livestock on farms; and if she will make a statement. [82204]

Mr Paice: We share farmers' concern about the potential risks of sky lanterns (also known as Chinese lanterns). We are continuing to work with other Departments and the agricultural industry to address them.

Our current approach is to raise public awareness of the potential dangers posed by sky lanterns (and to focus on voluntary action with the aim of influencing consumer behaviour). I wrote to the British Hospitality Association in the summer to advise its membership of hotels, restaurants and other venues of the problems they cause, principally the harm to livestock and litter and to ask that they discourage customers from using these lanterns. DEFRA also issued a press release earlier this month for bonfire night to warn people of the harm sky lanterns can cause.

We are also pursuing other voluntary options and working closely with the National Farmers Union and the Women's Farming Union as they gather the evidence necessary to justify any potential future ban. These two organisations are doing a sterling job in raising awareness of the risks posed by sky lanterns and urging support for local farmers.

In parallel, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills is raising the issue with the Commission and exploring the views of other member states.

Sustainable Development

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to tackle the challenges of population growth for sustainable development ahead of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; and if she will make a statement. [78804]

Mr Paice: The birth of the 'seven billionth baby' on 31 October served to emphasise the challenges that we face in providing a prosperous, sustainable future for a rapidly growing global population. Natural resources are neither inexhaustible nor free. At Rio+20 (the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development), we must make the case for a greener global economy—showing that growth need not occur at a cost to the environment, that this growth can be inclusive, and that sustainability is the foundation for long-term prosperity. We must also make clear that the major global challenges facing us—for example, food security, environmental degradation, climate change and poverty eradication—are inextricably linked, and that we will not succeed in tackling them piecemeal.

The UK is pushing for an ambitious outcome at Rio+20—we should agree tangible actions that make a difference. Engagement and preparations are under way; we have submitted initial ideas to the UN ahead of the Conference, and are developing the UK's position and engaging with EU and international partners.

World War II: Medals

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to encourage former members of the Women's Land Army and Timber Corps to apply for the Women's Land Army and Timber Corps badge. [85319]

Mr Paice: Since the launch of the award in 2008 more than 35,000 badges have been issued to former members of the Women's Land Army (WLA) and Women's Timber Corps (WTC). DEFRA continues to receive a number of requests for badges and where the application meets the criteria, a badge will be awarded. The application form for the WLA badge is available on the DEFRA website at:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmmanage/working/wla/

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Arts

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the current Standard Industrial Classification codes in quantifying the economic contribution of the creative industries. [84950]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* Creative industries are a collection of specialised business activities reaching across the whole range of industrial sectors including:

printing and fashion in the manufacturing sector;

retail of art and antiques;

architectural and design services; and

publishing and advertising.

As this group of industries is so wide and detailed the standard industrial classification system (SIC) is never going to be ideal for capturing it entirely.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) have policy responsibility for creative industries and, in close consultation with a number of other Government Departments including BIS, have formed a SIC-based definition. DCMS will be publishing a statistical bulletin on the creative industries on 8 December.

Debt Recovery

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many claims have been made under the Late Payment of Commercial Debt (Interest) Act 1998 in each year since the Act was passed. [84870]

Mr Prisk: The Late Payment of Commercial Debt (Interest) Act 1998 provides suppliers with the right to claim interest for late payment and reasonable debt recovery costs.

Government do not hold a record of the number of claims as they are made by the supplier direct to the purchaser: the supplier informs the purchaser that payment is overdue and seeks both prompt payment and the claim for interest and recovery costs. It is only where the purchaser does not pay the interest and/or debt recovery costs that the supplier can then pursue their claim through the courts. Claims of this type are not centrally recorded. Guidance on late payment legislation can be found at:

www.bis.gov.uk/files/file37581.pdf

It is important to note that late payment legislation is intended to be a deterrent against late payment, not a routine way of dealing with an overdue invoice. Suppliers should therefore reference the Act and the costs of overdue payment in all invoicing to make clear to the purchaser when payment is due and the additional costs of failing to pay on time.

In that context, it is estimated that over half of UK transactions are not covered by pre-agreed terms, and Barclays estimate that only one in 10 suppliers regularly credit checks their customers. This suggests that there is much suppliers can do to improve their management of supplier relationships and that is why we have joined forces with the Institute of Credit Management and the UK's leading business representative and financial bodies to produce and promote the highly regarded Managing Cashflow guides:

www.creditmanagement.org.uk/bisguides.htm

Business: Government Assistance

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of support available for those *(a)* wishing to start a business and *(b)* running a business. [85217]

Mr Prisk: The information is as follows.

(a) The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills consulted on the effectiveness of business support delivery and what improvements could be made to the Business Link service with representatives from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Engineering Employers Federation, the Confederation of British Industry, the Federation of Private Business, the British Chambers of Commerce and the Institute of Directors, with a group of independent entrepreneurs including members of the Secretary of State's Entrepreneurs Forum, and through the business representative bodies, via workshops in every English region involving business support practitioners, providers (including enterprise agencies), local authorities and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

(b) Improvements identified included: a preference for advice to business provided by peer networks, professionals and intermediaries such as, accountants and banks; Government funding for targeted face to face advice to be aimed at SMEs with high growth potential; easier access to business information, advice on regulation and Government transactions on the Business Link website and the ability to personalise content; Government not to duplicate private sector provision.

On 14 November 2011 we launched a new approach to the way people receive the information, advice and guidance they need to start and grow their business. This was developed with experts in the relevant subject matter and tested with prospective SME users. The mentoring web portal was developed in conjunction with the British Banking Association.

Our new approach is based on: digital services which provide high quality information and advice, accessible when businesses need them; and face to face advice provided by business people for business people, not by the public sector. We have:

Revamped the Business Link website

www.businesslink.gov.uk

introduced two new online services; a dedicated "My New Business" area developed by experts to provide training, tools and checklists for those looking to start a business; and the new Growth and Improvement Service which will provide new tools to help businesses understand the issues they face, plus a business support and an events finder tool so businesses can find out what is available to them locally. To ensure services are readily accessible and meet a variety of needs, our services include online tools, tutorials and case studies, and will be accessible using mobile technology.

Established a national helpline to help people find what they need on the web and for those who cannot access the web.

Encouraged businesses to seek a business mentor to help them develop their business and encouraging mentoring organisations to offer access to their mentors through a mentoring portal,

www.mentorsme.co.uk

Almost concluded the procurement of a new Business Coaching for Growth (BCG) Programme to enable small businesses with high growth potential to realise their potential.

Capita

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each such contract. [84743]

Mr Davey: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 748W, to the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent Central (Tristram Hunt).

Construction: Billing

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effect on sub-contractors of late or non-payment of bills by larger contractors in the construction industry. [84456]

Mr Prisk: The impact assessment for the Revision of the Scheme for Construction Contracts (England and Wales) Regulations 1998 Construction Contract (England) Exclusion Order 2011 estimated that commercial disputes between contractors and sub-contractors had an estimated financial cost of £40 million in 2010. The exact proportion of these disputes relating directly to late or non-payment is unknown, as is the proportion of the disputes costs that fall on sub-contractors as opposed to contractors. Amendments to the above legislation were commenced in October aimed at mitigating the cost of such disputes.

There is also evidence that payments within the construction sector are improving relative to other sectors in the UK. The pH Group, a subsidiary of Experian, provide data by industry sector in respect of days beyond term (DBT) payments, i.e. the number of days later than contract terms by which invoices were paid. The latest data show that construction was the only sector where DBT fell over the last quarter (Q3 2011) which is the second consecutive quarterly fall in DBT for the construction sector. The number of days beyond term for the construction sector is now 13.15 days, which is the second lowest (behind only the agricultural sector) out of the 11 sectors reviewed, and well below the UK average of 16.62 days.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible. [83778]

Mr Davey: The Department's contracted catering and conference supplier Baxter Storey only use pasteurised liquid egg that is bought in the UK and is Lion Brand standard. Baxter Storey do not buy non UK whole egg or liquid egg.

Information for non departmental bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [83779]

Mr Davey: The Department's catering and conference services are contracted to Baxter Storey who source the food used.

Currently 85% of all produce and 92% of indigenous produce is procured from UK food producers.

Information for non departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83780]

Mr Davey: The central Department's conference and catering is contracted out to Baxter Storey. Since the inception of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) in 2003 and now the Government Buying Standard, Baxter Storey has operated a policy of full compliance in all its Government contracts.

Information for non departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what procedures his Department has put in place to ensure value for money on purchases; and what savings have been identified using those procedures in the last year. [82316]

Mr Davey: In August 2011, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), announced that the Efficiency and Reform Group's new measures had saved £3.75 billion over 2010/11.

This impact was assessed using methodologies in the following table. The assessment has been independently verified by Government auditors who found the benefits assertions to be fairly calculated and presented.

These savings are borne out in Department accounts. The table on page 79 of the annual report and accounts 2010-11 (HC1001) reports that non-pay gross administration costs for BIS reduced from £187 million in 2009-10 to £140 million in 2010-11. Figures in this report are prepared in accordance with HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual for central Government Departments and associated Treasury resource accounting and budgeting guidance.

Activity and calculation method

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence base/calculation*
Consulting	Government put in place a moratorium on new consulting spend, and extensions to existing contracts. Where spend was considered operationally critical (for example, where it might put at risk critical services) an exception process existed for Department Ministers to sign off expenditure over £20,000.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2010/11 from total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2009/10. To reduce the risk of costs shifting between categories, we also monitored expenditure on other professional services categories, including contingent labour.
Crown Commercial	Government have renegotiated deals with some of the largest suppliers to Government.	The method of calculation varies according to the initiative that yields the saving, but was based on cash releasing savings against a baseline of what would have otherwise been spent. This was often price savings against the previous price paid. Savings agreed with suppliers are recorded in memoranda of understanding as guaranteed-in-year or conditional-in-year savings. Realised savings were subsequently tracked back to departmental verification of supplier progress reports.
Contingent Labour	Government have significantly cut the number of temporary staff.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2010/11 from total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2009/10.
Communications	Government froze all new marketing spend unless it is an operational necessity. Where spend was proposed, ministerial sign-off was required for £20,000 or above.	Calculations compare departmental spend on marketing and advertising through COI for 2010/11 with that for 2009/10.
Centralising Procurement	Government has started to centralise spend on common goods and services to drive down prices. These savings derive from the 10 categories of expenditure targeted for centralisation, and relate to price savings through increased aggregation.	For each initiative, calculations are performed using individual benefit methodologies that set out how savings will be calculated against a 2009/10 price baseline. Evidence is management information provided by suppliers.

Activity and calculation method

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence base/calculation*
ICT	We implemented: (a) a moratorium on all new ICT spend above £1 million; and (b) a review of all ongoing ICT commitments. Departments also reported those projects that were closed before undergoing the review.	Calculations are based on departmental reports of spend that has not proceeded. Spend that has not gone ahead in 2010/11 is recorded, as a result of stopping or reducing spend. Further, sustainable savings are targeted through the Government ICT strategy.
Major Projects	We reviewed the Government's biggest projects to see where 2010/11 costs could practically be reduced within contractual constraints, or wasteful projects stopped altogether. We have halted or curtailed spend on four projects: 14-19 Reform—£60 million, Identity Cards—£50, million Highways Agency Projects—£54 million, and Whole Farm—£5 million. We have redacted £22 million of potential double counting from these figures, that arises between this work and our supplier renegotiation work stream. £14.9 million arises from the Home Office National Identity Cards and £6.7 million from DEFRA Whole Farm.	HMT have provided assurance that the relevant amounts were removed from departmental budgets following the Major Projects-related negotiations.
Property	We put in place national property controls such that signature of new property leases or lease extensions were approved centrally. It has not always been possible to net off all costs associated with vacating buildings. However, we have also not claimed savings in respect of revenue from property disposals.	Calculations are property by property based on the amount Departments have reported saved through the Government's property database by non-renewal of property leases at lease breaks or upon lease expiry.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84237]

Mr Davey: In 2007, the Department outsourced the assessment of what reasonable adjustments were recommended for staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions.

The Department has outsourced no other services in each of the last five years.

Derby Economic Task Force

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 762W, on rolling stock: procurement, if he will publish the minutes, actions and attendees of the Derby Economic Task Force meeting held on 31 October 2011. [84597]

Mr Prisk: There was not a Derby Economic Task Force meeting on 31 October. There was a sub group meeting about supply chains on that day. The Derbyshire/ Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce are the lead organisation.

Export Credits Guarantees

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much outstanding debt is owed to the UK through the Export Credits Guarantee, broken down by country. [84857]

Mr Davey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr (Jonathan Edwards), on 9 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 375W.

Export Credits Guarantees: Arab States

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which sovereign states have owed money to the Export Credits Guarantee Department due to defaults by the Arab Organization for Industrialization since 1981. [84120]

Mr Davey: None.

Export Credits Guarantees: Libya

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what projects backed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department involved exports to or investments in Libya since 2000-01. [84109]

Mr Davey: The Export Credits Guarantee Department has not supported any export contracts to or investments in Libya since 2000-01 to date.

Marine Stewardship

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of fish sourced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* those agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible are procured from Marine Stewardship Council approved sustainable sources [83910]

Mr Davey: The central Department's conference and catering is contracted out to Baxter Storey who are currently sourcing 35% of fish from Marine Stewardship Council-approved sustainable sources.

I have approached the chief executives of the Department's executive agencies and they will respond to the hon. Member directly. Information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Letter from David Williams, dated 5 December 2011:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills regarding what proportion of fish sourced by (a) his Department and (b) those agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible are procured from Marine Stewardship Council approved sustainable sources. (83910)

The UK Space Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has procured no fish from Marine Stewardship Council approved sustainable sources.

The UK Space Agency are tenants in Polaris House, Swindon, in which catering services are supplied by the Research Councils UK, who have a catering contract with Baxter Storey. All food procurement is made by the catering contractor.

Letter from John Alty, dated 5 December 2011:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) to your Parliamentary Question tabled for 25 November 2011, asking the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, what proportion of fish sourced by (a) his Department and (b) those agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible are procured from Marine Stewardship Council approved sustainable sources.

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) does not conduct any food related procurement activities. The IPO has access to a catering contract owned by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), for the provision of hospitality and restaurant facilities for IPO staff. ONS confirm that currently the proportion of fish procured from Marine Stewardship Council approved sustainable sources is zero. Therefore the proportion offish procured from marine Stewardship council approved sustainable sources is zero for the IPO.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 5 December 2011:

Thank you for your question addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills asking the Skills Funding Agency (the Agency) what proportion of fish sourced by (a) his Department and (b) those agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible are procured from Marine Stewardship Council approved sustainable sources (83910)

Please be advised that the Agency does not directly purchase fish. Its caterers are committed to responsible sourcing and all fish products are sourced within UK and international regulatory guidelines.

Letter from Dr Vanessa Laurence CB, dated 30 November 2011:

As Director General and Chief Executive of Ordnance Survey, I have been asked to reply to your question with the information on what proportion of fish sourced by Ordnance Survey is procured from Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) approved sustainable sources.

Ordnance Survey's procurement of food is managed by a third party. Their seafood supplier is recognised as a Key Foodservice Supplier by the Marine Stewardship Council offering MSC certified products within their chain of custody framework.

It is estimated that Ordnance Survey's catering provider is currently sourcing 35% of its fish from MSC approved sustainable sources. This percentage is, I understand, likely to increase soon, as the company responsible for managing Ordnance Survey's catering facilities are currently in the process of achieving 'company wide' MSC chain of custody accreditation. In addition, I have been informed that no fish that sit in the red category of the online MSC fish database are served by our supplier.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated November 2011:

The Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question, what proportion of fish sourced by (a) his Department and (b) those agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible are procured from Marine Stewardship Council approved sustainable sources.

The Insolvency Service Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has procured no fish from Marine Stewardship Council approved sustainable sources.

The Insolvency Service no longer has canteen facilities.

Letter from John Hirst, dated 29 November 2011:

I am replying on behalf of the Met Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 25 November 2011, UIN83910 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Met Office itself does not procure any fish. However, catering is provided by Eurest Services at the Met Office Headquarters in Exeter. Eurest Services does not source any fish products from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) "Fish to Avoid" list. Moreover, I understand the majority of Eurest's fish supply has MSC accreditation and that it is currently reviewing the MSC "Fish to Eat" list against the remainder of its supply.

I hope this helps.

Letter from David Evans, dated 29 November 2011:

You tabled the following Parliamentary Question on 25 November 2011:

"To ask the Secretary of State, Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, what proportion of fish sourced by (a) his Department and (b) those agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible are procured from Marine Stewardship Council approved sustainable sources".

Land Registry, who are an Executive Agency within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, do not directly source fish however we do have one staff canteen, for which the contract for catering has been outsourced. Our catering provider sources 100 percent of the fresh fish served from Marine Stewardship Council certified suppliers.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 30 November 2011:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office (NMO) to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 25 November 2011, asking the Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of fish sourced for his Department and the Agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible are procured from Marine Stewardship Council approved sustainable sources.

NMO has responsibility for its site in Teddington that also houses the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), a Government Owned Contractor Operated body. We provide restaurant and hospitality facilities for NPL and NMO through a total facilities management contract. We have received verbal assurance from the catering sub-contractor, Baxter-Storey, that 100% of the fish used in delivering the catering and hospitality service are procured from Marine Stewardship Council approved sustainable sources.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 28 November 2011:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 25 November 2011, UIN 83910 to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House does not procure seafood directly but our contracted catering provider only procures fish from sustainable sources approved by the Marine Stewardship Council.

Fossil Fuels: Export Credits Guarantees

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 271W, on fossil fuels: export credits guarantees, whether he plans to announce his decision before the Christmas recess. [84020]

Mr Davey: No firm date has been fixed.

Government Procurement

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contribution his Department has made towards meeting the Government's target of procuring 25 per cent. of central Government supplies from small and medium-sized enterprises. [84879]

Mr Davey: The Department in financial year 2010-11 spent £48.2 million directly with small and medium-sized enterprises, equating to 19% of total procurement spend for that period.

In September 2011, the latest period for which figures are available, the Department spent £3,789,000 directly with small and medium-sized enterprises, equating to 18.35% of total procurement spend.

Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to increase the power of suppliers in relation to large retailers under the Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill. [83119]

Mr Davey: By enforcing and overseeing the Groceries Code, the Groceries Code Adjudicator will strengthen the position of suppliers in relation to large retailers.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether the Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill will have provision to protect the anonymity of suppliers when requesting an investigation be launched; [83120]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that the criteria for launching an investigation under the provisions of the Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill do not adversely affect the ability of a supplier to request an investigation anonymously. [83121]

Mr Davey: Protecting the confidentiality of suppliers who raise a complaint will be both a power and a duty of the Adjudicator.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Groceries Code Adjudicator will be given the ability to launch an investigation if he has reasonable grounds to suspect a breach of the Groceries Code regardless of where the evidence has originated. [83122]

Mr Davey: The Groceries Code Adjudicator will be able to launch an investigation based on information that is publicly available, or information provided by a supplier. The Government have agreed to consider the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee's proposals that information provided by trade bodies and industry whistleblowers should also be considered.

Manufacturing Advisory Service: Redditch

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans the Manufacturing Advisory Service has to provide assistance to manufacturers in Redditch; and if he will make a statement. [84823]

Mr Prisk: A new Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) national service will launch on 1 January 2012. The national service will be delivered locally by people who understand the dynamics of their local economies while leveraging leading edge national resources. MAS will work with the Worcester and Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnerships and regional sector bodies to ensure provision is driving local impacts, both in terms of priorities and local tailoring of services.

Manufacturing Advisory Service: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans the Manufacturing Advisory Service has to provide assistance to manufacturers in Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [84096]

Mr Prisk: A new Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) national service will launch on 1 January 2012. The national service will be delivered locally by people who understand the dynamics of their local economies while leveraging leading edge national resources. MAS will work with the Cambridge and Peterborough Local Enterprise partnership (LEP) and regional sector bodies to ensure provision is driving local impacts, both in terms of priorities and local tailoring of services.

New Businesses: Capital Investment

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage private sector investment in high-risk start-up businesses; and if he will make a statement. [84889]

Mr Prisk: The Government recognise that high risk, innovative start-ups have the potential for high growth and job creation.

The Government support tax incentives including the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and Venture Capital Trusts (VCTs) to encourage private investment in start-up firms. The March 2011 Budget announced changes to the rules and capacity relating to EIS and VCTs to simplify and increase the incentive for investors to use these schemes.

The Autumn Statement went even further in the targeting of relief toward start-up firms. The Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) which will be introduced from April 2012 aims to encourage investment into new early stage companies by providing a higher rate of income tax relief of 50% (compared to the normal EIS rate of 30%) for individuals who invest in qualifying seed companies. To kick start the scheme the Government are offering a capital gains tax exemption on any gains realised in the year 2012-13 that are invested through SEIS in the same year.

The Government continue to support the early stage market by leveraging in private investment through Enterprise Capital Funds (ECFs). ECFs invest £250,000 to £2 million in small, early stage businesses. 10 funds with a total of £250 million to invest have been established and a further £200 million has been committed to leverage an additional £100 million of private sector funding.

The Government are also supporting the development of a new £50 million Business Angel Co-investment Fund as part of a successful bid to the Regional Growth Fund. The fund will be available to invest, alongside Business Angel networks or syndicates, into eligible start-ups and is due to launch by the end of the year.

Overseas Trade: China

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what process UK Trade and Investment has put in place to track the economic plans of Chinese provinces and identify opportunities for trade for UK firms. [84535]

Mr Prisk: Identifying business opportunities for UK firms across China is a key strategic driver of UK Trade and Investment's work. One aspect is a major regional cities initiative which has identified significant opportunities for UK business across 35 Chinese regional cities.

The addition of some 50 FCO frontline staff into the China Network will also increase our reach, engagement and understanding, and allow us to build closer relationships with China's fastest-growing regions and cities in support of UK business.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many trade shows in China UK Trade and Investment has attended; and in which provinces. [84536]

Mr Prisk: In 2011-12 there are 19 exhibitions in China in UK Trade and Investment's published Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP), comprising: eight in Beijing, eight in Shanghai, two in Guangzhou and one in Shenzhen. In addition, TAP has agreed support for individual UK exhibitors at a further 10 exhibitions: four in Shanghai, four in Shenzhen, three in Guangzhou and one in Zhuhai. UKTI officials also support UK commercial interests at other exhibitions in different parts of China according to their duties.

Postal Services: Dangerous Dogs

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contribution he has made to the Home Office consultation on anti-social behaviour in respect of the risk posed by dangerous dogs to Royal Mail deliveries to customers. [85299]

Mr Davey: I have not made any contribution to the Home Office consultation on antisocial behaviour in respect of the risk posed by dangerous dogs to Royal Mail deliveries to customers.

I understand that this consultation closed on the 17 May 2011. It would have been an operational matter for Royal Mail to decide to contribute to the consultation, in terms of dangerous dogs, had it felt it appropriate to do so.

Private Sector: Employment

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance is offered to former public sector workers to help them find work in the private sector. [83704]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions.

The primary responsibility for supporting public sector workers made redundant rests with the public sector employer, supported by Jobcentre Plus as appropriate. Employers have a variety of support in place ranging from internal redeployment managers to externally contracted outplacement services. A cross Government career transitions service is also being piloted in London which provides redeployment assistance both inside and beyond the public sector.

Everybody who loses their job as a result of workforce management measures—including former public sector workers—is able to access support from the Jobcentre Plus led Rapid Response Service both during their redundancy notice period and, for those who require it, up to 13-weeks after their last day of work.

Those individuals who go on to make a claim to benefit will enter a personalised system of support within Jobcentre Plus that allows more flexibility to Jobcentre Plus. This framework allows advisers greater discretion to draw down from a flexible menu of support options that is tailored to the needs of both the individual and the local labour market.

In addition, Jobcentre Plus advisers will signpost claimants to appropriate specialised agencies which can help claimants with particular skills or professional capabilities to find relevant suitable work quickly. Jobcentre Plus advisers will also, as appropriate, signpost people to opportunities for starting up their own business through measures like enterprise clubs and/or the new enterprise allowance.

Regional Assistance: Northern Ireland

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding Northern Ireland has received as a result of its automatic assisted area status in each of the last three years. [84452]

Mr Prisk: This is a devolved matter which is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Executive.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of progress with the review of automatic assisted area status for Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement; [84453]

(2) what assessment he has made of the consequences to Northern Ireland of the removal of automatic assisted area status; [84454]

(3) if he will undertake an equality impact assessment of the potential effect of the removal of automatic assisted area status for Northern Ireland. [84455]

Mr Prisk: The removal of the automatic assisted area status for Northern Ireland is one of four proposed changes to the Industrial Development Act 1982. The Government's consultation covering these proposed changes closed on 2 November 2011 and we are on target to publish a response within three months of the consultation close.

An impact assessment for all four proposed changes was included at annex 3 of the Industrial Development Act Revisions consultation document. The post 2013 allocation implications for Northern Ireland of removing the automatic 100% assisted area coverage will not be known until the new Regional Aid Guidelines are implemented by the European Commission and we start to draw up the 2014-2020 assisted areas map. An economic and equality impact assessment will be undertaken at this time.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to his answer of 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 112W, on Regional Growth Fund, (1) how many meetings the Ministerial Group held to consider the panel's recommendations; [81051]

(2) how many meetings took place; on which days; and which Ministers attended each meeting. [81052]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]*: In line with the constitutional convention of collective decision-making, and section 2 of the Ministerial Code, the Government do not disclose details of the internal process through which decisions are taken.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 111-12W, on Regional Growth Fund, what the monetary value is of the provisional allocations for the successful bids to the second round of the Regional Growth Fund in each region. [81053]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 14 November 2011]*: Given as follows is the regional breakdown of provisional (subject to the outcome of due diligence) allocations for winning bids to the second round of the Regional Growth Fund.

	£ million
North-west	227
North-east	93
Yorkshire and Humber	143
West midlands	100
East midlands	67
London, south-east and east of England	[1]113
South-west	88
Other bids—national	119

[1] This includes value of bids from round 1 where the number of bids is less than 2.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much successful bidders to the Regional Growth Fund have paid for the due diligence process to date; and what estimate his Department has made of the total amount that will be paid by successful bidders to complete the due diligence process. [84905]

Mr Prisk: 19 projects totalling £112 million, following the completion of due diligence, have signed final contracts and are set to deliver 924 new or safeguarding jobs and nearly 29,000 jobs in the supply chain. We expect that all projects allocated conditional allocations will complete due diligence and will start to receive their share of the £1.4 billion in the spring. The guidance has always been clear that the cost of due diligence should be met by the applicant and that due diligence costs will vary due to commercial circumstances.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of successful bids to the Regional Growth Fund that will receive funding in *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [84906]

Mr Prisk: It is normal for regional growth fund funding to be paid in arrears of private sector investment and phased over several years. The majority of successful bids will receive some funding each year.

Regional Planning and Development: North-east England

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much Government funding for regional development has been provided in the North East in each year since 1996. [83401]

Mr Prisk: The following table gives total figures for Regional Selective Assistance, Selective Finance for Investment in England (SFIE) and Grant for Business Investment (GBI) provided in north-east England, combined with the funding for the One North East (ONE) regional development agency established in April 1999.

	£ million
1996/97	22.7
1997/98	36.0
1998/99	22.8
1999/2000	110.6
2000/01	121.2
2001/02	190.9
2002/03	231.5
2003/04	247.5
2004/05	251.2
2005/06	250.9
2006/07	294.5
2007/08	293.9
2008/09	267.0
2009/10	261.0
2010/11	201.1

In 2011/12 the current funding allocation to ONE, SFIE and GBI is £100.4 million. In addition, following the completion of rounds 1 and 2 of the bids under the Regional Growth Fund programme, £156.9 million has been allocated to the north-east (for spending between 2011/12 to 2013/14).

Regulation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what best practice timescales his Department advocates for the introduction, removal or change of Government regulations. [84919]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 5 December 2011]*: The Better Regulation Executive has issued guidance on a number of relevant components of the processes for introducing, amending or removing Government regulations. These include:

12 weeks for public consultation exercises

guidance being issued twelve weeks before regulations come into effect

domestic regulations affecting business coming into effect on a Common Commencement Date

post-implementation review being carried out between three and five years after regulations come into effect

sunset clauses having effect seven years after regulations come into effect

In practice, the total time taken for introduction, removal or change will depend on a variety of factors including the scope and complexity of the regulations, whether they are domestic or EU in origin, whether a formal public consultation is required, and the type of parliamentary procedure.

Renewable Energy: Export Credits Guarantees

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that new trade finance products offered by the Export Credits Guarantee Department are marketed and accessible to small and medium-sized renewable energy enterprises. [84010]

Mr Davey: I refer my hon. Friend for Richmond Park to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne Central (Chi Onwurah), on 9 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 377W.

The awareness campaign has included companies and trade associations in the renewable energy industry.

Technology and Innovation Centre

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had on the establishment of a Technology and Innovation Centre in the East Midlands. [82798]

Mr Willetts: I have had a range of discussions on the establishment of technology and innovation centres including in the east midlands.

The network of technology and innovation centres will be established and overseen by the Technology Strategy Board and, while I will follow progress on this very closely, the decision on the final technology areas, together with the location of the centres, will be made by the Technology Strategy Board following a process of detailed discussions with the business and academic communities on the basis of where there is most potential for a centre to have a catalytic effect in stimulating long-term economic growth.

Paliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85057]

Mr Davey: Figures indicate that a total of 588 named day parliamentary questions were due for answer by BIS Ministers during the period June to November 2011. 480 (82%) received a substantive reply within five sitting days from the date the parliamentary question was tabled. A total of 549 (93%) received a substantive reply either on the date stipulated by the Member, or within five sitting days from the date stipulated.

The figures have been drawn from the Department's database which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

TREASURY

Unemployment

18. **Pat Glass:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the Office for Budget Responsibility's forecast for unemployment in 2012. [84798]

Danny Alexander: In line with a weaker outlook for GDP growth, the OBR has revised up the projected level of unemployment over the near term.

The Government are taking steps to support private sector job creation and reduce unemployment:

Reducing red tape and facilitating SME's access to finance through credit easing, helping businesses to grow and take on new workers;

Implementing reforms to help people find work including specific support for young people through the Youth Contract.

Regional Investment

20. **Sarah Newton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of fiscal policy on the level of investment in the regions. [84802]

Danny Alexander: Returning the UK economy to sustainable economic growth that is more balanced across the UK and sectors is a key priority. In the autumn statement, this Government took steps to encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy.

In addition, we have continued to support investment in all places, increasing the Regional Growth Fund for England by £1 billion, plus Barnett consequentials for the devolved administrations, approving two new Enterprise Zones in Lancashire and the Humber, making 100% capital allowances available in six Enterprise Zones, and funding up to six rural growth networks.

Economic Growth

21. **Karl Turner:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of levels of economic growth in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other G7 countries in the last 12 months. [84803]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government's latest assessment of the UK economy is set out in the autumn statement. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility's Economic and Fiscal Outlook was published alongside the autumn statement.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development collates GDP data for all member countries. These data show the UK economy growing in the most recent three quarters. The OECD's latest forecast shows UK GDP growing faster than that of France, Italy, and the euro area both next year and in 2013.

UK Current Account Balance

Mr Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the UK's current account balance with *(a)* the EU and *(b)* non-EU countries in the last year. [84788]

Miss Chloe Smith: In 2010 the UK had a current account deficit of £37 billion. This deficit results from a deficit of £52 billion with the EU and a surplus of £16 billion with non EU countries.

Bank Levy

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the Finance Act 2011 (Bank Levy: Amendment of Netting Agreements Provisions) Order 2011 on the revenue raised by the bank levy. [85322]

Mr Hoban: It is estimated that there is a negligible impact as the amendments simply make it clearer how the netting agreements work in respect of these transactions.

Future Jobs Fund

Julie Elliott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effects of cancellation of the Future Jobs Fund on levels of employment. [84804]

Danny Alexander: The Chancellor of the Exchequer and I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the economy and levels of employment.

As announced at the autumn statement, the Government are introducing the Youth Contract which provides almost £1 billion in new funding to support up to 500,000 young people into employment and training. The Youth Contract builds on work the Government are already doing to tackle youth unemployment, including apprenticeships, work experience places and the Work programme, one of the largest payment-by-results employment programmes in the world.

The Government were right to abolish the Future Jobs Fund. It was too expensive and created too many jobs in the public and voluntary sector that were fully funded by the subsidy and therefore ceased when the subsidy ran out. The Youth Contract will create sustainable jobs in the private sector, with an estimated 160,000 wage incentive places to make it easier for private sector employers to take on young people.

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason he has decided to extend the working tax credit hours rule but not to impose an hours rule in respect of receipt of universal credit. [85096]

Mr Gauke: Under the current tax credits system, couples with children can claim the working tax credit, if one partner works 16 hours. Lone parents must work at least 16 hours to qualify for the working tax credit. This change makes the system fairer by reducing the disparity in the number of hours which lone parents and couples are obliged to work.

In 2013, universal credit will provide a new single system of means-tested support for working-age people who are in or out of work. The key aim of universal credit is to move claimants into work, more work or better paid work (and so towards self-sufficiency). To achieve that aim, a single taper rate and a simple system of earnings disregards will allow people in work to see clearly how much support they can get while making sure that people considering a job will understand the advantages of work, thereby smoothing the transition into work, and encouraging progression in work.

While there will be no hours rules under universal credit, the clear financial incentive provided by universal credit will be backed up by a strong system of conditionality; unemployed people who can work will be required to take all reasonable steps to find and move into employment. The Government intends to apply conditionality at a higher level of income under universal credit than it does under the current benefits system. This will enable the Government to apply work-related requirements to claimants who are in some work but who we expect to earn more than they currently do, in order to reduce their dependency on benefits. This will help people along a journey toward financial independence from the state.

Building Societies

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to ensure the interests of all building societies are taken into account in his Department's financial strategy. [84931]

Mr Hoban: Ministers and officials meet regularly with the Building Societies Association and individual building societies to discuss a range of policy issues.

The Government have been working with building societies to ensure a positive outcome in European discussions on the Capital Requirements Regulation.

Building societies have been consulted on the draft Financial Services Bill, which requires the new regulatory authorities to publish an analysis of how draft rules may affect mutual and non-mutual firms differently, and makes minor amendments to the Building Societies Act.

Building societies will be consulted on any legislation introduced to implement the findings of the Independent Banking Commission report. The Government will announce their response to the report by the end of this year.

Business: Loans

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce the cost of bank lending and credit for businesses. [84801]

Mr Hoban: At the autumn statement the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the launching of a package of credit easing measures to help improve the flow of credit to businesses. The National Loan Guarantee Scheme will lead to reductions in the cost of bank loans for smaller businesses while the Business Finance Partnership will deliver additional finance for mid-sized businesses through non-bank lending channels.

Child Care Tax Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits whose total weekly working hours are under 24 are in receipt of childcare tax credit; and how much they receive on average. [85095]

Mr Gauke: The working hours requirements for the child care element of working tax credit are 16 hours for a lone parent or 16 hours for each member of a couple (unless one member of the couple is incapacitated, in hospital or in prison). Therefore, apart from a negligible number of couples, all households working fewer than 24 hours and benefiting from the child care element of WTC would be lone parents.

The number of lone parents benefiting from the childcare element of working tax credit and working fewer than 24 hours as of April 2011 was 127,000. The average amount they received was £66 a week. These households would not be affected by the policy announced

by the Government in the spending review of 2010 to restrict working tax credit for couples with children to those who work a combined minimum of 24 hours (with one member working at least 16 hours).

Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 352W, on minimum wage, what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on relocation of the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate to the national minimum wage enforcement team in HM Revenue and Customs; and whether any *(a)* voluntary or *(b)* compulsory redundancies would result from such a relocation. [77702]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 2 December 2011]:* Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

The Treasury publishes a list of ministerial discussions with external organisations, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

Mortgage Express

George Eustice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many buy-to-let properties have been repossessed by Mortgage Express in the last 12 months. [84620]

Mr Hoban: The Government do not publish data on arrears and repossessions. The Council of Mortgage Lenders collects data on buy-to-let repossessions across the UK. Specific repossessions data for Mortgage Express is not publically available.

George Eustice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases concerning Mortgage Express have been referred to the Financial Ombudsman Service in the last 12 months. [84621]

Mr Hoban: The matter raised is for the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS), whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government. The FOS publishes complaints data on their website at:

http://www.ombudsman-complaints-data.org.uk

Social Justice Committee

Michael Dugher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings of the Social Justice Committee Ministers in his Department have attended since its establishment. [85281]

Miss Chloe Smith: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when and how often they meet and which Ministers have attended, is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Taxation

Nick de Bois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on the economy of an increase in interest rates. [84789]

Miss Chloe Smith: An increase in interest rates would be particularly damaging to an economy with the UK's level of indebtedness. A one percentage point rise in the cost of government borrowing would add around £7.5 billion to debt interest payments by 2016-17. A one percentage point rise in effective mortgage rates would add £10 billion a year to households' mortgage interest payments.

Taxation: North-west England

Hazel Blears: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Salford and Eccles constituency and *(b)* the North West who are subject to the (i) higher and (ii) additional rate of income tax. [84902]

Mr Gauke: An estimated 3.74 million taxpayers are liable to income tax at the 40% higher rate and 308,000 taxpayers are liable to income tax at the 50% additional rate in the United Kingdom in 2011-12.

In the north west, 318,000 taxpayers are liable to income tax at the 40 per cent higher rate and 18,000 taxpayers are liable to income tax at the 50% additional rate in the 2011-12

These and estimates for other UK Government Office Regions are published on the HMRC website in tables 2.1 and 2.2 which are available at the following addresses:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-1.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-2.pdf

Reliable estimates for taxpayer marginal rates are not available at the parliamentary constituency level, due to greater uncertainties in projections for small geographical areas and small sample sizes.

These estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Estimates of income and tax by parliamentary constituency for 2007-08 and preceding years are available in table 3.1 5:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm

VAT: Business

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider extending VAT exemptions for VAT-registered businesses in the construction industry building new properties to small firms in other sectors; and if he will make a statement. [84799]

Mr Gauke: It is not possible to extend existing VAT zero rating to the construction of commercial properties under EU law.

However, it should be remembered that a VAT registered business that is charged VAT on the construction of a new property will be able to recover the tax, subject to the normal VAT rules.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made by the Office of Tax Simplification in reviewing the VAT threshold for business registrations. [85318]

Mr Gauke: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office of Tax Simplification (OTS), and I have asked the OTS to reply.

Letter from John Whiting, dated 2 December 2011:

Gordon Banks MP has submitted a written parliamentary question about the VAT threshold for business registrations. The question was:

"To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what progress has been made by the Office of Tax Simplification in reviewing the VAT threshold for business registrations."

The OTS's interim report on small business taxation was published on 10 March 2011. The report included a short section (paragraphs 4.61-4.66) on VAT, which did address the question of the registration threshold. Our conclusion was: "On balance we think the registration threshold should stay as it is, though it is an area that is worth further study."

The Chancellor responded to this report in Budget 2011, and commissioned the OTS to look into tax administration in their final report on small business taxation. On 9 May 2011, the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury wrote to the OTS Chairman, Rt Hon Michael Jack, outlining the Government's response and setting out priorities for the next stage of the Office's work in more detail[1].

[1] This letter has been published on the OTS website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/ots_xstletter_small_business_tax_review_090511.pdf

As set out in the Exchequer Secretary's letter, the remit of the work on tax administration will require the OTS to "examine closely small businesses1 experience of tax administration and their contact with HMRC at key stages of their annual cycle" and to "give specific consideration of the issues involved in starting and growing a new business." The terms of reference for this work are attached in the annex of this document.

Since the interim report on small business taxation, the OTS has been gathering evidence and conducting research to determine the areas of tax administration that ought to be prioritised. As highlighted in the interim report, the OTS is interested in the administrative difficulties, including those related to VAT and international trade, which pose particular problems for small businesses. The operation of VAT registration is, therefore, very much within the remit, although we understand that HMRC is already working hard to improve the registration process. The OTS has not, however, been asked to review the VAT registration threshold limit.

The OTS has been asked to deliver recommendations on tax administration for small business ahead of Budget 2012. We would be happy to inform the questioner when the report is published.

I hope this is helpful, and would like to thank Mr Banks for his interest in our work.

VAT: Charities

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on reviewing the charging of irrecoverable value added tax for charities providing healthcare services; and if he will make a statement. [84685]

Mr Gauke: HM Treasury officials are currently reviewing the VAT position of charities providing health care services and discussions between the sector and the Department are ongoing.

Welfare Tax Credits: Uprating

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of uprating tax credits using a consumer prices index level of *(a)* 2.5, *(b)* 3, *(c)* 3.1, *(d)* 3.5, *(e)* 4, *(f)* 4.3, *(g)* 4.5, *(h)* 4.6, *(i)* 4.9, *(j)* 5.1 and *(k)* 5.2 per cent. in 2012-13. [82750]

Mr Gauke: As of the June Budget 2010, most tax credit elements are uprated by CPI each year. By convention, the CPI for September 2011 would be used to uprate these elements in 2012-13. The official ONS estimate for CPI for September 2011 is 5.2%.

The following table gives the estimated savings against this baseline for 2012-13 if CPI were to be at the specified levels.

Savings in 2012-13 of different uprating percentages in 2012-13 for the elements that are currently uprated by CPI

Uprating	*£ million*
5.2%	0
5.1%	neg
4.9%	40
4.6%	130
4.5%	170
4.3%	200
4%	270
3.5%	400
3.1%	490
3%	500
2.5%	630

In this comparison, we have assumed the following tax credit elements are uprated by CPI in 2012-13:

Working tax credit

Disability element

Severe disability element

Child tax credit

Child element

Disabled child element

Severely disabled child element

This answer assumes the couple and lone parent elements of working tax credit are frozen in 2012-13, as announced in the autumn statement 2011. In addition, the basic and 30 hour elements of working tax credit are frozen for three years from 2011-12, as announced at spending review 2010.

Working Tax Credit

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people receive working families tax credit in each constituency; and what the total amount paid was. [84846]

Mr Gauke: The latest information on the number of households in receipt of child tax credit and working tax credit and average award sizes in each constituency can be found in table 3 of the HMRC statistical publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics: finalised annual awards 2009-10-geographical analysis", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-final-awards-may11.pdf

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 7 December 2011

SCOTLAND

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employees his Department and its predecessor had in each year since 1997. [84683]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Information on staff numbers is routinely published in the Office's annual report, copies of which are in the House Library. A breakdown of part-time staff is not provided as identification of individuals may be possible in view of the numbers involved.

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether any senior staff in his Department are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85072]

David Mundell: No senior staff in the Scotland Office are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary.

Festivals and Special Occasions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department provided support to any organisations celebrating St Andrew's Day in 2011. [84875]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office supported the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland's annual St Andrew's tide visit to London. The Advocate-General and I attended a St Andrew's Day service in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft at Westminster before the Advocate-General hosted a lunch in Dover House to mark the occasion.

Details of a St Andrew's Day concert by Ian McFarlane held in the Banqueting House, Whitehall were circulated to Scotland Office staff in Dover House should they wish to attend.

A number of Whitehall Departments flew the Saltire flag on St Andrew's Day.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department took to *(a)* mark and *(b)* promote St Andrew's Day in 2011. [84897]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), was in Brazil on St Andrew's Day promoting Scotland's business and exports. He was guest of honour at a St Andrew's Day reception at the United Kingdom consul's residence in Sao Paulo, and he issued a celebratory St Andrew's Day message via the media.

The Advocate-General and I attended the St Andrew's Day service in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft at Westminster. Following this, the Advocate-General hosted the annual Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland's lunch in Dover House to mark the Moderator's annual St Andrew's tide visit to London. I also attended the lunch.

Sovereignty

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails his Department has received on holding a referendum on independence for Scotland in the last 12 months. [84672]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has received *(a)* 29 letters and *(b)* 11 e-mails on holding a referendum on independence for Scotland in the last 12 months.

TRANSPORT

A14: Cambridgeshire

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the likely effects of the proposed expenditure on the A14 in Cambridgeshire on *(a)* levels of congestion, *(b)* average travel times and *(c)* the number of accidents. [84712]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The £20 million package was developed from a list of Highways Agency and local authority proposed scheme ideas which are considered most likely to reduce congestion and travel times and improve safety and resilience on the A14 in the short term. Proportionate and quantified assessment of the benefits of the measures will be carried out as part of the pre-implementation preparations to ensure the schemes are optimally designed and offer value for money.

A31: Dorset

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if she will take steps to reduce the length of time that all side roads from the Canford Bottom roundabout will be closed during the current construction works; [85627]

(2) what estimate she has made of the length of time during which all side roads from the Canford Bottom roundabout will be closed during the current construction works. [85628]

Mike Penning: Revisions to the programme of the current construction works at the Canford Bottom roundabout have reduced the total length of time the side roads will be affected from 12 to eight weeks.

Due to the phasing of this work, Ham Lane/Wimborne Road West (Ferndown side) will be closed for two weeks. All side roads are then closed for four weeks, followed by closure of Canford Bottom/Wimborne Road West (Wimborne side) for two weeks.

Further to our meeting on 5 December 2011, the Highways Agency is looking at ways to further reduce the time the side roads will be closed. They are investigating extended hours or 24/7 working, although this will have to be considered with the likely disruption to local residents.

Aviation: Training

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether she has any plans to increase the levels of regulatory protection for students on flight training courses who have paid large sums in advance for their courses; [85166]

(2) whether she has any plans to increase the regulatory powers of the Civil Aviation Authority in respect of the financial situation of flight training schools. [85167]

Mrs Villiers: There are currently no plans to change the level of regulatory protection for students of Flight Training Organisations (FTO) in the UK, or the Civil Aviation Authority's powers in respect of the financial oversight of approved FTOs.

Cardiff Airport

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Welsh Government on the future of Cardiff airport. [84723]

Mrs Villiers: DFT Ministers have not had any recent discussions with the Welsh Government regarding the future of Cardiff airport.

The Government are currently developing a sustainable framework for UK aviation. In March we published a scoping document to initiate a dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders on the future direction of aviation policy, in response to which the Welsh Government have submitted their views.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff of her Department have been disciplined due to drug offences in the last 12 months. [83316]

Norman Baker: The central Department and six of its executive agencies can confirm that there have been no cases where a member of staff has been disciplined due to drug-related offences. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is not able to answer as it would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any senior staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if she will publish her policy on such payments. [85071]

Norman Baker: No senior staff in the Department for Transport, its executive agencies or non-departmental public bodies are paid in this way. Our policy is to pay all staff through payroll, by automatic bank transfer.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which services her Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84229]

Norman Baker: No contracts have been outsourced by the Department for Transport since April 2006.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85045]

Norman Baker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 576W, to the hon. Member for Hemsworth (Jon Trickett).

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Heathrow Airport

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will commission research into the effect on the economy of not constructing a third runway at Heathrow airport. [84118]

Mrs Villiers: The coalition Government have made absolutely clear their opposition to a third runway at Heathrow.

We want to see a successful aviation sector which facilitates economic growth and addresses its environmental impacts. We will issue a Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation for public consultation in spring 2012.

Intercity Express Programme

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Intercity Express Programme carriages will enter service in each of the next 10 years. [82161]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is currently conducting commercial discussions with Agility Trains. The precise numbers of carriages and their rate of delivery will remain under negotiation as the contract moves towards financial close.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 20 October 2011 with regard to Mr T Dowden. [85146]

Justine Greening: I replied to the right hon. Member on 15 November 2011.

Motor Vehicles: Lighting

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to prevent the unnecessary use of fog lights in conditions of good visibility. [85674]

Mike Penning: The use of front or rear fog lamps is prohibited other than in conditions of seriously reduced visibility. Enforcement of road traffic law is a matter for the police. However, guidance on the correct use of fog lights is also provided in the Highway Code, which advises that seriously reduced visibility is when the driver cannot see further than 100 metres (328 feet).

To help prevent rear fog lamps inadvertently being left on, they must be designed to automatically switch off when all other lamps are turned off and then to remain off until deliberately switched on again. Alternatively an audible warning must be given if the driver leaves the vehicle with the rear fog lamps on.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84200]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport primarily uses postcodes for the postage of mail. Other uses of postcodes can include identification of local driving test centres, creation of property records and for journey planning purposes. However, wider use of postcode data is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Railways

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential of magnetic levitation technology for use in the next generation of high-speed trains. [84886]

Justine Greening: Work by the Department for the 2007 White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", found that magnetic levitation technology would be significantly more expensive than high-speed rail and would not enable trains to run seamlessly onto existing inter-city routes, serving a wider range of destinations. The few instances of magnetic levitation systems in use around the world operate on a relatively short point-to-point basis and scaling the technology up to a national network is unproven. There are no plans to further consider magnetic levitation as an alternative to a high-speed rail network.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received on the use of MagLev trains in the UK. [84887]

Justine Greening: The Department for Transport regularly receives correspondence regarding a range of technologies, including the use of MagLev trains in the UK. Since my appointment I have not met with any promoters of such technology.

Shipping: Rescue Services

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has conducted a cost-benefit analysis of the withdrawal of emergency towing vehicle funding comparing the south-west of England and the north-west of Scotland. [82407]

Mike Penning: The decision to withdraw the emergency towing vessels (ETVs) was part of the comprehensive spending review package announced in October 2010, and reflected the Government's judgment about the balance of risk of pollution around the UK coast in the event of a maritime accident. This decision was based on the then current running costs of the ETV contract, and the determination that the costs of any future pollution incident will be borne by the polluter on a cost recovery basis. There was no specific cost-benefit analysis comparing the south-west of England and north-west of Scotland.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 419W, on the Thameslink Railway Line: rolling stock, what assessment her Department made of the effect on employment of the decision to establish Siemens plc and XL Trains as preferred bidder for the Thameslink Rolling Stock contract. [85278]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 11 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 205-6W, to the question from the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr Denham)

Transport: Infrastructure

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the additional road and rail infrastructure required to meet demand at existing standards for the *(a)* upper and *(b)* lower limits of the population forecast by the Office for National Statistics by 2050. [85463]

Mrs Villiers: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 14 November 2011, given to the hon. Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Cathy Jamieson), *Official Report*, column 580W.

Transport: Snow and Ice

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when *(a)* she, *(b)* other Ministers in her Department and *(c)* officials in her Department last met representatives of the Independent Review of Winter Resilience. [81216]

Norman Baker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 581-2W. No further meetings have taken place between the Department for Transport and the Independent Review of Winter Resilience panel members, who published their final report on 22 October 2010, and disbanded as a panel following the fulfilment of their terms of reference at the end of 2010.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which flag or flags are routinely displayed outside each of his Department's overseas *(a)* posts and *(b)* residences. [84588][1]

Mr Bellingham: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The general rule is that the relevant flag—as follows—should be flown at post on all working days during office hours, depending on which country the posts are located in and the type:

Diplomatic flag—this is the Union flag with the Royal Arms in the centre surrounded by a green garland.

Consular flag—this is the Union flag with the St Edward's Crown in the centre on a white disc . It is only flown at consular posts in foreign countries.

Union flag—this is flown in Commonwealth countries.

European flag—the display of the European flag is a courtesy rather than a requirement. On Europe day (9 May), posts in EU and EU-applicant countries should display the European flag. Other posts may also display the flag on Europe day where this is normal local practice. UKREP Brussels displays the European flag at all times. All posts may display the flag at other times where this is normal local practice.

In all cases, the European flag is displayed alongside, not instead of, the British Diplomatic, Consular or in Commonwealth countries the Union flag, with the British flag having precedence.

Overseas Territories—The personal flag of an Officer Administering the Government (OAG) in an Overseas Territory is the Union flag, superimposed in the centre with the approved arms or badge of the Territory on a white disc surrounded by a green garland. It is flown from sunrise to sunset at Government House when the OAG is in residence. If he/she is not, the flag is flown wherever he/she is in the Territory.

The Union flag is flown from sunrise to sunset at Government House when the OAG is not in residence. It is also flown there if he/she has placed the residence entirely at the disposal of an important visitor, e.g. a member of the royal family.

UK national flags—three of the four constituent countries of the United Kingdom have their own national flags: the St Andrew's, St David's, and St George's flags. (Northern Ireland is currently without a national flag, pending a new design.) These flags may be flown on the appropriate national day. Posts also have discretion to fly them when special circumstances/events dictate, e.g. the visit of a Minister from a devolved Administration.

London 2012—The International Olympic Committee and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games gave permission for posts overseas to fly the London 2012 host country flag on key dates in 2012 and for the duration of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has supported. The dates in question are as follows:

9 January 2012: 200 days to go—Olympics

11 February 2012: 200 days to go—Paralympics

18 April 2012: 100 days to go—Olympics

10 May 2012: Lighting of the Olympic flame

17 May 2012: Handover of the Olympic flame

18 May 2012: Arrival in the UK of the Olympic flame

21 May 2012: 100 days to go—Paralympics

27 July to 12 August 2012 inclusive: Olympic Games

29 August to 9 September 2012 inclusive: Paralympic Games.

Posts are only permitted to fly the 2012 flag on those agreed dates above, but can display it in their reception areas at other times. Again the British Diplomatic, Consular or the Union flag, will take precedence.

1. *[Official Report, 15 December 2011, Vol. 537, c. 3MC.]*

(b) The general rule for flying the relevant flags listed above at Residencies is that they should be flown on the following British anniversaries, during the visit of one of Her Majesty's ships or on days of local celebration or mourning.

British Anniversaries:

20 January: birthday of HRH the Countess of Wessex

6 February: Her Majesty's Accession

19 February: birthday of HRH the Duke of York

1 March: St David's day

10 March: birthday of HRH the Earl of Wessex

17 March: St Patrick's day

March (second Monday): Commonwealth day

21 April: birthday of Her Majesty

23 April: St George's day

9 May: Europe day[1]

2 June: Coronation day

10 June: birthday of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh

June (second Saturday): official celebration of Her Majesty's birthday

17 July: birthday of HRH the Duchess of Cornwall

15 August: birthday of HRH the Princess Royal

November (second Sunday):Remembrance day

14 November: birthday of HRH the Prince of Wales

20 November: Her Majesty's wedding anniversary

30 November: St Andrew's day.

[1] The Union flag should fly alongside the European flag. On Government buildings that only have one flagpole, the Union flag should take precedence.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of attempts to prevent Bahais in the Iranian city of Sanandaj from attending gatherings; and if he will make a statement. [85177]

Mr Bellingham: We are aware of the deeply concerning reports that Baha'is are being prevented from attending regular planned gatherings and are being threatened. This is a flagrant breach of Iran's commitments under international law to protect freedom of religion, and forms part of a wider pattern of harassment of Baha'is in Iran, including the imprisonment of their leaders. We have regularly raised these issues with the Iranian authorities, for example when the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), met the Iranian chargé d'affaires in August this year. Following the storming of the British embassy in Tehran on 29 November, the UK has downgraded diplomatic relations with Iran. However, we will continue to press the Iranian Government to accord all Iranian citizens the right to freedom of religion. With our EU partners, the UK has taken co-ordinated action to address Iran's human rights record, imposing travel bans and asset freezes on over 60 Iranians responsible for human rights violations, including Government Ministers and members of the judiciary.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to urge the Israeli government to *(a)* lift the restrictions on aid to Gaza and *(b)* allow the free entry of medical equipment and drugs. [85008]

Mr Bellingham: We are aware that from a list of 460 essential drugs, Gaza's Ministry of Health medical store is currently missing 170 items, including drugs used to strengthen the bones of cancer patients and other types of cancer-related drugs.

According to an UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs report that was published in August 2011, as of the end of August, approximately one third of the items in the essential drug list and 27% of the medical disposable items were at "zero level" at the Central Drug Store in the Gaza Strip. These shortages directly affect the delivery of health services at facilities run by the Ministry of Health, which provide 40% of primary health care and 80% of hospital care services.

We continue to work closely with the Quartet and EU partners, and to call on Israel to ease restrictions on access including access to humanitarian and medical supplies. Our ambassador in Tel Aviv raises these concerns regularly with Israeli authorities. It was also formally raised by the UK at the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting of donors in New York on 18 September both in the plenary session and in bilateral meetings with the Israeli delegation in the margins of the main event.

Somalia: International Assistance

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what issues the Government expects to be on the agenda at the international conference on Somalia in 2012; and if he will take steps to ensure that the famine and humanitarian access for international agencies and non-governmental organisations will be included on that agenda. [85150]

Mr Bellingham: The London conference on Somalia on 23 February will seek to deliver a new, action-oriented international approach to Somalia to support and build on the progress being made on the ground.

We want the conference to agree a series of practical measures to support Somalia, including ways to address humanitarian issues.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the economy of piracy off the coast of Somalia. [85169]

Mr Bellingham: The turnover of the British shipping industry is worth £10.7 billion of our national GDP; nearly $1 trillion of trade to and from Europe travelled through the Gulf of Aden in 2008 and this is the second busiest international trade route in the world. One World Future has estimated that piracy could be costing the global economy up to $12 billion a year in direct costs and indirect costs such as increased insurance premiums.

Britain is playing a leading role in the counter-piracy operations at sea, and we are leading international work with regional countries to build penal, judicial and law enforcement capacities in support, with more than 1,000 pirates now in custody. The first line of defence remains self-defence measures by ships to minimise the risk of a successful highjack. But the long-term solution lies on land, with rule of law and increased stability.

West Bank: Trees

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the removal of olive trees in the West Bank; and if he will assess the effects of such removals on the livelihood of Palestinian families. [85007]

Mr Bellingham: The UK Government fully appreciate that attacks on olive groves are particularly painful to Palestinians, as the olive tree is both a national symbol and the sole source of income for many subsistence farmers. We have raised our concerns about these various issues with the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and with the Israeli Defence Force. Our staff at the British Consulate General in Jerusalem and British embassy in Tel Aviv will continue to raise these issues as appropriate.

We view any attempts to change the facts on the ground as a serious provocation likely to raise tensions and cause unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians, as well as being harmful to the peace process and in contravention of international law. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

JUSTICE

Applied Language Solutions

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 544-5W, on Applied Language Solutions, (1) whether the statement in that answer that the assessment of creditors of Applied Language Solutions (ALS) falling due within one year is nil is reconcilable with ALS' 2009-10 accounts, which show creditors with debts falling due within one year as £1.926 million; [84296]

(2) what the criteria were which his Department used in making its choice of provider; and for what reason Applied Language Solutions was chosen as the provider. [84427]

Mr Blunt: The answer provided previously was in response to a question which the Department considered to relate specifically to mezzanine funding, which is a hybrid of debt and equity funding.

In more general terms, a financial assessment of Applied Language Solutions considered the company to be financially viable with a profitable position. At the time these issues were considered, it was known that the solution would be a one-stop shop facility that could be delivered by one or more companies. Small and Medium Enterprises, including Applied Language Solutions, with reasonable financial positions and scalable solutions were therefore considered suitable.

The criteria used to determine the choice of provider were: Service 30%, Innovation 10%, Quality 25%, Assurance of Supply 30% and Sustainability 5%. In financial terms, the Ministry of Justice had determined it would accept the lowest priced, affordable and compliant tender, i.e. there would be a minimum threshold of 80% for the non-price criteria above which the lowest priced tender would be selected. Applied Language Solutions met the criteria and submitted the lowest priced tender.

Civil Disorder

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 63-4W, on civil disorder, if he will commission research to ascertain the number of compensation orders issued in relation to the persons convicted of offences relating to the public disorder in August 2011. [82117]

Mr Blunt: Information on compensation orders is routinely collected from the courts and published annually in Criminal Justice Statistics.

There are currently no plans to commission specific research to ascertain the number of compensation orders issued in relation to the persons convicted of offences relating to the riots in August 2011.

On 24 October 2011 the Ministry of Justice published a statistical bulletin which provided updated information on those brought before the courts for offences relating to the public disorder. Information on numbers brought before the courts, initial outcomes and sentencing was based on data available by midday on 12 October 2011. This report can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/public-disorder-august-11.htm

On the same day the Home Office also released an overview of recorded crimes and arrests resulting from the disorder:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/overview-disorder-aug2011/

Harassment

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints about harassment under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 were dealt with by *(a)* a caution, *(b)* a fixed penalty notice and *(c)* an official warning in each year since 2005. [81684]

Mr Blunt: Data are available on the number of offenders cautioned under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and section 32 of the Crime Disorder Act 1998 in England and Wales, 2005 to 2010 (latest available). It can be viewed in the following table.

Under section 32 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 a person is guilty of an offence of racially or religiously aggravated harassment if they commit an offence under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 which is racially or religiously aggravated (as defined in section 28 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998).

Fixed penalty notices (penalty notices for disorder) are not available for offences committed under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 or section 32 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. A caution is a formal warning for a criminal offence; therefore, we have interpreted the request for information on official warnings to mean cautions.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring 2012.

Offenders cautioned[1,2] for offences under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, England & Wales, 2005-10[3]

Statute	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[4]*	*2009*	*2010*
Protection from Harassment Act 1997, section 2[5]	3,055	3,500	3,560	3,668	3,535	3,277
Crime and Disorder Act 1998, s.32[6]	105	117	90	87	89	18

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
[5] Includes: Offence of harassment.
[6] Offences under Crime and Disorder Act 1998, s.32:
Racially aggravated offence of harassment
Religiously aggravated offence of harassment
Racially or religiously aggravated offence of harassment
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 25 October 2011 with regard to Mr M Aslam. [85147]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have now replied. I apologise for the delay.

Parole

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many determinate cases were *(a)* considered and *(b)* recommended by the Parole Board in each year between 1996-97 and 2010-11; [83430]

(2) how many prisoners were on parole from determinate sentences in each year between 1996-97 and 2010-11. [83431]

Mr Djanogly: Table 1 as follows shows the number of determinate cases considered and recommended for release by the Parole Board each year. These figures are published annually in the Parole Board annual report.

Table 2 below shows the average number of prisoners on parole from determinate sentences each year. These figures are published annually in the Parole Board annual report.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Following changes in sentencing legislation introduced in the Criminal Justice Act 2003, prisoners serving a determinate sentence for an offence committed after 4 April 2005 are now released automatically at the half-way point of their sentence and their cases no longer go before the Parole Board to decide. The number of determinate cases being referred to the Parole Board by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), has therefore fallen significantly in recent years.

The cases which continue to be referred to the Parole Board are of prisoners who were sentenced to very lengthy determinate sentences for offences committed before 4 April 2005 and who are therefore likely to have committed more serious offences. They are also likely to have been seen by the Parole Board on at least one previous occasion and turned down for release. The release rate has therefore also fallen in recent years reflecting the increasing seriousness of the cases being considered.

Table 1: Determinate sentence parole reviews and decisions 1996-97 to 2010-11

	Cases considered	*Parole granted*	*Percentage parole granted*
1996-97	4,899	1,761	36
1997-98	5,242	2,006	38
1998-99	6,078	2,383	39
1999-2000	6,219	2,561	41
2000-01	5,576	2,584	46
2001-02	5,514	2,791	51
2002-03	6,012	3,175	53
2003-04	6,038	3,206	53
2004-05	7,297	3,794	52
2005-06	7,528	3,718	49
2006-07	6,923	2,478	36
2007-08	6,012	2,157	36
2008-09	2,893	682	24
2009-10	1,656	296	18
2010-11	1,274	244	19

Table 2: Average number of prisoners on parole from determinate sentences 1996-97 to 2010-11

	Number
1996-97	2,000
1997-98	2,300
1998-99	2,100
1999-2000	2,500
2000-01	2,800
2001-02	3,000
2002-03	3,200
2003-04	3,600
2004-05	4,034
2005-06	4,683
2006-07	4,285
2007-08	3,390
2008-09	2,400
2009-10	1,263
2010-11	652

Note:
Figures for 1996-97 to 2002-03 are rounded to the nearest 100

Prisoners: Compensation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many claims were made by prisoners for compensation in each of the last five years; what proportion of such claims were unsuccessful; and how many claims were *(a)* settled out of court and *(b)* resolved as a consequence of a court judgement. [84420]

Mr Blunt: Prisoners may seek compensation through internal complaints procedures, correspondence, civil litigation and through the parliamentary and prison and probation ombudsman. To provide the information requested would require a trawl through thousands of individual complaint/letters received at each prison site and in MoJ headquarters. This could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals of each country of origin serving custodial sentences have been repatriated since May 2010. [81392]

Mr Blunt: From May 2010 to 8 November 2011 a total of 57 prisoners have been repatriated from England and Wales to their country of origin to continue serving custodial sentences.

The following table sets out the breakdown of countries where the prisoners transferred.

Country	*Number of prisoners transferred*
Belgium	3
Bermuda	1
Canada	1
Cyprus	1
Czech Republic	5
Ecuador	1
Ghana	1
India	1
Lithuania	1
Netherlands	25
Pakistan	4
Poland	1
Portugal	3
Slovenia	1
Spain	2
Sri Lanka	1
Turkey	5

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what category of crimes each foreign national prisoner serving a custodial sentence was convicted in the most recent period for which information is available. [81393]

Mr Blunt: As at 30 September 2011 there were 7,555 foreign national prisoners serving sentences in prison establishments in England and Wales. The following table shows the breakdown by offence group.

	Number
Violence against the person	1,769
Sexual offences	1,015
Robbery	708
Burglary	315
Theft and handling	538
Fraud and forgery	432
Drug offences	1,748
Motoring offences	105
Other offences	878
Offence not recorded	47
Total	7,555

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Manpower

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the staffing level in each prison in England and Wales was in October *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [81507]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of directly employed staff at each Prison Service establishment in England and Wales on 31 October 2009, 2010 and 2011 is contained in the following table:

Full-time equivalent staff in post—31 October 2009, 2010 and 2011

	Total staff in post (full-time equivalent)		
Public sector establishments	*31 October 2009*	*31 October 2010*	*31 October 2011*
Acklington	450	445	731
Ashwell	283	204	—
Askham Grange	76	62	56
Aylesbury	297	264	266
Bedford	261	244	242
Belmarsh	909	869	837
Birmingham	757	717	11
Blantyre House	63	66	59
Blundeston	295	269	258
Brinsford	386	368	365
Bristol	336	336	324
Brixton	347	328	315
Buckley Hall	206	207	196
Bullingdon	473	455	436
Bullwood Hall	155	139	129
Bure	201	288	279
Canterbury	182	177	175
Cardiff	396	422	416
Castington	370	330	—
Channings Wood	341	342	332
Chelmsford	392	374	364
Coldingley	265	257	246
Cookham Wood	221	212	222
Dartmoor	313	303	281
Deerbolt	343	325	319
Dorchester	187	168	170

Full-time equivalent staff in post—31 October 2009, 2010 and 2011

	Total staff in post (full-time equivalent)		
Public sector establishments	*31 October 2009*	*31 October 2010*	*31 October 2011*
Dover	244	238	250
Downview	215	206	192
Drake Hall	176	174	166
Durham	563	528	487
East Sutton Park	59	59	59
Eastwood Park	290	249	243
Edmunds Hill	229	199	—
Elmley	357	381	426
Erlestoke	250	227	—
Erlestoke and Shepton Mallet	—	—	359
Everthorpe	299	285	267
Exeter	292	286	275
Featherstone	352	346	324
Feltham	725	686	660
Ford	162	154	152
Foston Hall	291	256	181
Frankland	978	932	906
Full Sutton	753	720	707
Garth	493	488	465
Gartree	443	399	374
Glen Parva	457	443	403
Gloucester	207	198	199
Grendon	313	287	278
Guys Marsh	281	280	269
Haslar	99	95	94
Haverigg	316	302	293
Hewell	639	609	601
High Down	513	474	457
Highpoint	447	411	577
Hindley	430	401	403
Hollesley Bay	147	138	127
Holloway	489	443	380
Holme House	486	535	533
Hull	502	483	470
Huntercombe	281	242	214
Isis	33	242	254
Isle of Wight	876	840	810
Kennet	283	263	253
Kingston	129	126	118
Kirkham	230	219	219
Kirklevington Grange	131	125	126
Lancaster	165	164	17
Lancaster Farms	386	353	369
Latchmere House	81	77	70
Leeds	575	571	545
Leicester	233	206	201
Lewes	348	335	329
Leyhill	202	191	196
Lincoln	377	340	316
Lindholme	493	469	443
Littlehey	342	530	516
Liverpool	620	589	574
Long Lartin	692	665	660
Low Newton	273	277	266
Maidstone	293	269	261
Manchester	854	849	809
Moorland	495	480	483

Full-time equivalent staff in post—31 October 2009, 2010 and 2011

Public sector establishments	Total staff in post (full-time equivalent) 31 October 2009	31 October 2010	31 October 2011
Morton Hall	210	182	207
New Hall	377	362	338
North Sea Camp	140	119	118
Northallerton	135	128	129
Norwich	380	358	352
Nottingham	397	531	515
Onley	401	355	327
Pentonville	600	560	542
Portland	373	356	331
Preston	449	423	417
Ranby	532	464	442
Reading	186	181	175
Risley	478	476	455
Rochester	460	400	392
Send	177	180	176
Sheppey Clustered Services	127	106	273
Sheppey Reducing Re-Offending	243	305	—
Shepton Mallet	134	133	—
Shrewsbury	211	201	208
Stafford	379	371	351
Standford Hill	90	91	114
Stocken	379	348	345
Stoke Heath	435	419	401
Styal	331	310	289
Sudbury	196	165	158
Swaleside	374	353	406
Swansea	224	226	241
Swinfen Hall	373	359	356
The Mount	336	313	304
The Verne	268	254	247
Thorn Cross	191	177	172
Usk/Prescoed	166	172	167
Wakefield	730	705	662
Wandsworth	712	679	651
Warren Hill	231	220	228
Wayland	405	387	386
Wealstun	333	391	399
Wellingborough	319	249	248
Wellington	170	176	173
Wetherby	357	388	413
Whatton	461	396	372
Whitemoor	744	716	691
Winchester	348	327	301
Woodhill	744	727	703
Wormwood Scrubs	559	541	540
Wymott	524	507	499

Private sector establishments	Total staff in post (full-time equivalent) 31 October 2009	31 October 2010	31 October 2011
Altcourse	599	585	546
Ashfield	442	439	458
Birmingham	—	—	596
Bronzefield	373	360	329
Doncaster	568	534	468
Dovegate	523	549	552
Forest Bank	526	531	514
Lowdham Grange	396	451	476
Parc	628	706	668
Peterborough	522	513	515
Rye Hill	256	246	243
Wolds	189	182	161

Notes:
1. Information relates to all Prison Service establishments, including young offenders institutions and immigration removal centres.
2. Acklington and Castington; Edmunds Hill and Highpoint and Shepton Mallett and Erlestoke are reported as a single sites in October 2011.
3. Ashwell and Lancaster closed in March 2011, a few staff remain in post at Lancaster.
4. Birmingham transferred to management of G4S in October 2011.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Civil Disorder

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department expects to meet all the unplanned spending involved in policing recent incidents of public disorder, including the costs of *(a)* police overtime, *(b)* cancelling police leave and *(c)* drafting in officers from other forces; and if she will make a statement. [70670]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 8 September 2011]:* There is an established system of special grants in place to support forces where they face unexpected or exceptional costs.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effect public disorder in August 2011 in England and Wales will have on police funding. [71147]

Nick Herbert: There is already an established system of special grants in place to support forces where they face unexpected or exceptional costs. It is up to individual forces if they wish to apply for a special grant and all applications will be considered. Discussions between Home Office officials and police authorities have been ongoing and applications will be reviewed as quickly as possible.

EU Law

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in respect of which EU measures the Government is able to notify the Council that it does not accept the powers of the European Commission and the Court of Justice of the European Union, under Article 10(4) of Protocol (No 36) on Transitional Provisions annexed to the EU Treaties; and what EU proposals or adopted measures would amend or repeal any such measures. [85004]

James Brokenshire: The provisions of Article 10(1) and the notification under Article 10(4) of the Protocol on Transitional Provisions apply to acts of the Union in

the field of police co-operation and judicial co-operation in criminal matters which have been adopted before the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009 where those acts have not subsequently been repealed, annulled or amended.

Officials are currently finalising the list of measures which the Government anticipates will fall within the scope of this notification and this will be available to Parliament shortly. At the same time we will also provide Parliament with the latest list of EU proposals and adopted measures which will repeal and replace or amend measures which fall within the scope of the Article 10(4) notification.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many full-time equivalent staff the Independent Police Complaints Commission expects to employ in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [81350]

(2) how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by the Independent Police Complaints Commission as *(a)* investigators, *(b)* deputy senior investigators and *(c)* senior investigators in each financial year since 2004-05; [81351]

(3) how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the Strategy and Communications Directorate of the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each financial year since 2004-05. [81352]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold this information. These are matters for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). The IPCC has written to the right hon. Member about the information sought. A copy has been placed in the House Library.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* independent investigations, *(b)* managed investigations and *(c)* supervised investigations involving the Independent Police Complaints Commission there were in each financial year since 2004-05; [81455]

(2) how many full-time equivalent staff are expected to be employed in the Strategy and Communications Directorate of the Independent Police Complaints Commission in the financial year 2012-13; [81483]

(3) how many investigations were carried out by the Independent Police Complaints Commission following a death or serious injury during or following police contact in each of the last seven financial years; [81562]

(4) how many cases of death or serious injury during or after police contact were referred to the Crown Prosecution Service by the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each financial year since 2004-05; [82169]

(5) how many police officers were suspended pending an investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission into a death or serious injury during or after police contact in each financial year since 2004-05; [82170]

(6) how many *(a)* senior investigators, *(b)* deputy senior investigators and *(c)* investigators in the Independent Police Complaints Commission are former members of the police; [82171]

(7) what proportion of *(a)* senior investigators, *(b)* deputy senior investigators and *(c)* investigators in the Independent Police Complaints Commission are from (i) Black or Black British and (ii) Asian or Asian British background; [82172]

(8) what steps her Department has taken to increase the number of black and ethnic minority members of the Investigations Directorate of the Independent Police Complaints Commission. [82173]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold this information. These are matters for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). The IPCC has written to the right hon. Member about the information sought. A copy has been placed in the House Library.

Knives: Crime

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which organisations the Government is working to reduce the level of knife crime. [78292]

James Brokenshire: The Government works with a range of organisations to reduce knife crime including youth and community sector organisations, the Association of Chief Police Officers, and local statutory community safety partners.

Following the publication of the Brooke Kinsella's report, "Tackling Knife Crime Together—a Review of Local Anti-Knife Crime Projects", the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), announced a package of funding. This includes:

£3.75 million for three police forces—London, West Midlands and Greater Manchester—for the next two years under the Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives (CAGGK) Programme;

£4 million for the voluntary and community sector over the next two years under the CAGGK Fund—£2 million will be available during 2011-12 and a further £2 million during 2012-13. Each successful organisation will receive up to £10,000 each per year to prevent the involvement of teenagers in gun, gang and knife crime.

The list of organisations supported by the CAGGK Fund can be found using the following link:

http://grantsadmin.co.uk/funding/

£250,000 for one further year of the Ben Kinsella Fund to help young people run anti-knife crime projects in their local area.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State for Policing and Crime plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed of 5 April 2011 on police pensions. [66456]

Nick Herbert: A reply was sent on 14 July 2011.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to reply the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 22 August 2011 regarding Mr J Whelan; [76706]

(2) when she plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 22 August 2011 with regard to Mr J. Whelan. [79373]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 8 November 2011]:* A reply was sent on 20 November.

Metal Theft

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to make it a criminal offence to sell metals *(a)* without photographic identification and *(b)* using cash payments; and if she will make a statement. [80259]

James Brokenshire: Discussions are under way across Government on whether legislative changes are needed to tackle metal theft.

Police: Complaints

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many complaints from a member of the public to the Metropolitan Police Professional Standards Division were upheld in each year since its inception; [82989]

(2) whether any complaints of *(a)* corruption and *(b)* misconduct have been received by the Metropolitan Police from (i) members of the public, (ii) serving police officers and (iii) former police officers in each of the last five years. [83037]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold this information. This is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). The IPCC has written to the hon. Member about the information sought. A copy has been placed in the House Library.

Police: Manpower

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has had any discussions with the *(a)* Association of Chief Police Officers and *(b)* Police Superintendents' Association on the effects of reductions in the number of senior officers on their capacity to fulfil statutory duties; and if she will make a statement. [67350]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 18 July 2011]:* Ministers have regular discussions with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Police Superintendents' Association on a range of issues about policing.

Police: Misconduct

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers employed by the Metropolitan Police Service have been dismissed for allegations of *(a)* corruption and *(b)* misconduct in each of the last five years. [82988]

Nick Herbert: This information is not held centrally. This is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Service and its Police Authority.

Metal Theft

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) with reference to paragraph A.48, page 57 of the Autumn Statement, where she expects to allocate the funding to tackle metal theft; [84826]

(2) with reference to paragraph A.48, page 57 of the Autumn Statement, how many additional people she expects to be employed to tackle metal theft. [84827]

James Brokenshire: The details of the national metal theft taskforce are currently being developed, in liaison with the British Transport police who will be leading this work, and will be announced shortly.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Capita

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each contract. [84832]

Gregory Barker: One new contract has been awarded by DECC to Capita since 2010:

(a) This was for a facilities management review.

(b) The monetary value of the contract was £15,000.

(c) The net worth of the contract was £22,000.

Carbon Sequestration: Finance

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Autumn Statement has any implications in relation to the availability of the £1 billion earmarked by his Department to support the development of a carbon capture and storage project. [85041]

Charles Hendry: No. £1 billion remains available to support CCS projects.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable he has set for the competition to provide support for the development of a carbon capture and storage project. [85042]

Charles Hendry: We will launch a streamlined selection process for future CCS projects as soon as possible in the new year.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with representatives of the carbon capture and storage industry in relation to the Autumn Statement. [85043]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials hold frequent discussions on CCS with industry stakeholders covering a wide range of issues, including on the autumn statement.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in which financial year funds will be made available to support the development of a carbon capture and storage project. [85044]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Angus (Mr Weir), on 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 212W.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [82999]

Gregory Barker: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Leaflets

Cost: £1,869.

Designers and printers: Central Office of Information (COI), Charing Cross Print and Foyer Graphics.

(b) Posters

Our posters are produced in-house.

(c) Reports

Total cost (design and print): £231,934.62.

Designers and printers: COI, The Stationary Office (TSO), Foyer Graphics, Domarn, EC Group, Rye Design, Communisis, Wordlink.

In regard to reports, we have included all documents that have been published by DECC using an external agency for print and or design.

The Department has also published a number of other documents that were produced in-house and did not incur publication or design costs. These have not therefore been included in the answer.

Energy Supply: Accidents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the number of serious accidents and fatalities reported by the *(a)* coal mining, *(b)* offshore oil and gas exploration and production, *(c)* oil and gas refining, *(d)* thermal power generation and *(e)* onshore and offshore wind electricity generation sector in each of the last three years. [85154]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

The number of serious accidents and fatalities reported by the sectors of *(a)* coal mining, *(b)* offshore oil and gas exploration and production, and *(c)* oil and gas refining were:

Industry ('Standard Industrial Classification 2007')	*Employment status*	*Severity*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[3]
05—Mining of coal and lignite	Worker	Fatal	1	3	1
	Worker	Major	43	44	32
	Member of public	Non-fatal	4	0	0
06—Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas	Worker	Fatal	0	0	0
	Worker[2]	Major	43	52	42
09—Mining—support service activities[1]	Worker	Fatal	0	1	0
	Worker[2]	Major	18	14	6
19.2—Manufacture of refined petroleum products	Worker	Fatal	1	0	0
	Worker	Major	9	7	13
	Member of public	Non-fatal	0	0	1

[1] SIC 09—Mining support service activities covers petroleum and natural gas (including exploration but not extraction); other mining and quarrying.
[2] Fatal injuries are offshore only. Non-fatal major injuries in the oil and gas extraction and related activities cover onshore and offshore, as the data is stored such that it cannot be easily disaggregated between either type of workplace. At an aggregate level about 90% of reported major injuries occur offshore.
[3] Provisional.

(d) Data are not available in the form requested for accidents in the thermal power generation sector. Accident data are classified using Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) coding for the relevant industry sector, but this does not separately identify thermal power generation. Such incidents are amalgamated with electricity production more generally.

(e) Data are not available in the form requested for accidents in the wind electricity generation sector, where incidents are also amalgamated with electricity production more generally.

Energy: Meters

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with stakeholders on the roll-out of smart meters in rural areas. [85000]

Charles Hendry: The Government will place regulatory obligations on energy suppliers that will require them to take all reasonable steps to install smart meters for all their domestic and smaller non-domestic customers by the completion date in 2019. This obligation will apply equally to customers in rural areas as to others.

This policy has been informed by extensive consultation with stakeholders, both formal and informal. For example, we received 279 responses to our 2010 Smart Metering Prospectus consultation, including representatives of consumer interests such as Age UK, Consumer Focus, Citizen's Advice, the Federation of Small Businesses, and Which? Consumer groups continue to actively engage in the Smart Meter Programme through membership of a range of working groups, including a dedicated Consumer Advisory Group.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the roll-out of smart meters in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [85001]

Charles Hendry: The Government will place regulatory obligations on energy suppliers that will require them to take all reasonable steps to install smart meters for all their domestic and smaller non-domestic customers by the completion date in 2019. This obligation will apply equally to customers in rural areas as to others.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 589W, on renewable energy: feed-in tariffs, what estimate he has made of the number of community projects on hold pending the publication of the second consultation on feed-in tariffs. [85497]

Gregory Barker: The Department have made no such assessment.

The second consultation on the comprehensive review of the feed-in tariffs scheme will seek views on a proposed definition of "community-owned" installations. This consultation will be published around the end of the year.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department last met representatives of the voluntary and community sector to discuss proposed changes to feed-in tariffs. [85498]

Gregory Barker: Ministers and officials meet on a regular basis and also maintain dialogue with representatives from various voluntary and community sector organisations on the feed-in tariffs scheme.

Details of meetings between DECC Ministers and external organisations are published quarterly on the DECC website.

Scottish Government

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many times he has met Scottish Government Ministers since May 2010; what the *(a)* date and *(b)* location was of each such meeting; and what the issues were which were discussed at each such meeting; [84698]

(2) how many times he has met the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Investment since May 2010; what the *(a)* date and *(b)* location was of each such meeting; and what issues were discussed at each such meeting. [84700]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), maintains close links with Ministers in the devolved Administrations and has regular discussions with them on a range of energy and climate related issues.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what basis his Department proposes to introduce new multi-installation tariff rates for aggregated solar PV schemes with an eligibility date on or after 1 April 2012 and new generation tariffs for solar PV for all new solar PV installations with an eligibility date on or after 12 December. [84398]

Gregory Barker: The proposed new tariffs have been set in the light of evidence of the falling costs of PV and are intended to provide a 5% rate of return for well located installations. This was the target return for PV under FITs when the scheme started. The one exception is the tariff for PV installations with a total installed capacity of 4kW or less, the size of installation that is most commonly used for domestic PV installations. The proposed tariff for this band is intended to deliver a 4.5% rather than 5% rate of return for a well located domestic PV installation. Based on analysis undertaken through the comprehensive review, we consider that a lower target return than 5% is more appropriate for domestic PV given how the investment climate has changed since the FITs scheme was first introduced.

The multi-installation tariff rates are based on evidence from the comprehensive review which suggested that the economies of scale associated with aggregated projects mean that a lower tariff is necessary to deliver the target rate of return of 5%. We have considered this evidence along with the possible impact of the proposed new requirements on energy efficiency on aggregated projects. On this basis, we consider that a multi-installation rate which is set at 80% of the proposed standard tariffs for individual installations, is justified (where that would result in a tariff that is no lower than the marginal cost of renewables).

Stephen Crouch

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* senior officials of his Department have had with Stephen Crouch since May 2010. [84701]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* All ministerial meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis and can be found on the Department's website. There are no records of any such meeting with senior officials.

Wind Power: Costs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of wind power costs in 10 years time per kilowatt hour. [81855]

Charles Hendry: The updated report by Arup consultants which DECC published alongside the renewables obligation banding review consultation[1] contained levelised costs of electricity. The following table shows the current and projected levelised costs for onshore wind and offshore wind, including in 2020.

[1] Arup (2011), 'Review of the generation costs and deployment potential of renewable electricity technologies in the UK', available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cons_ro_review/cons_ro_review.aspx

Levelised costs of wind technologies,

£/MWh

		Financial close:				
		2010	*2015*	*2020*	*2025*	*2030*
Onshore >5MW	Low	75	72	71	69	68
	Medium	91	88	86	84	82
	High	108	105	103	101	99
Onshore <5MW	Low	82	80	78	76	75

Levelised costs of wind technologies

£/MWh

		Financial close:				
		2010	*2015*	*2020*	*2025*	*2030*
	Medium	104	102	99	98	96
	High	127	125	122	120	118
Offshore round 2	Low	149	123	95	87	81
	Medium	169	139	107	98	91
	High	191	158	121	111	104
Offshore round 3	Low	n/a	168	127	113	92
	Medium	n/a	192	145	129	105
	High	n/a	225	170	151	122

Source:
Arup (2011)

World War II: Medals

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* Bevin Boys and *(b)* Air Transport Auxiliary Veterans Badges were awarded in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008, (iii) 2009, (iv) 2010 and (v) 2011 to date. [85370]

Charles Hendry: In relation to the Bevin Boys Veterans Badge, which is the responsibility of the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the first badge was awarded on 20 March 2008 and the number of badges issued since is broken down as follows:

	Number
2008 (from 20 March 2008)	4,722
2009	70
2010	77
2011 (to 5 December 2011)	50

With regard to the Air Transport Auxiliary Veterans Badge, which is the responsibility of the Department for Transport, this was launched in September 2008 with initial awards to 149 veterans. A further 30 badges have since been awarded. No information is held on the number of badges awarded annually.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether any senior staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85085]

Mr Maude: Staff in the Cabinet Office employed by private sector or third sector organisations, for example on secondment, generally remain on the payroll of their organisation, where the Cabinet Office reimburses the organisation in line with civil service rates of pay appropriate to the role.

The Cabinet Office has one senior member of staff employed by McKinsey and Company, Mr Tim Kelsey, who leads on the Transparency agenda, and one senior member of staff employed by Institute for Government (a company limited by guarantee), Mr David Halpern, who leads the Behavioural Insight Team, and the Cabinet Office reimburses those organisations at rates equivalent to that of a Director.

This is part of the Cabinet Office's strategy to bring in expertise and specialist skills on a temporary basis from commercial, third sector and wider public sector organisations in line with Government policy on Senior Civil Service rates of pay.

No senior staff in the Cabinet Office's executive agencies and non-departmental bodies are paid by means of payment to a limited company in lieu of salary.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85056]

Mr Maude: The information is not held in the format requested.

Between 1 June and 30 November 2011, the Cabinet Office was tabled 193 questions for answer on a named day, 144 of which were answered substantively on the date specified.

Government Procurement

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which sectors will be included in the medium-term review of procurement scheduled for April 2012. [85210]

Mr Maude: The Government have already published procurement plans for construction, wider infrastructure, ICT and facilities management. The Government have announced that they will publish medium-term plans setting out their procurement needs in other sectors by April 2012.

Public Sector: Pensions

Dr Huppert: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his policy is on the acceptance by the Government of the binding nature of arbitration between public sector workers and the Government. [84488]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* As I set out to the House on 30 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 941-58, sector specific talks are ongoing between individual pensions schemes and the unions, following the proposals set out by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the right hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), on 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 927-29.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Festivals and Special Occasions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he took part in any events in an official capacity to mark *(a)* St George's day, *(b)* St Patrick's day, *(c)* St David's day and *(d)* St Andrew's day in 2011. [84899]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Government and their bodies support a number of events to signify the importance of these dates, including flying their flags on a number of Government buildings.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Training

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to prioritise small employers in the proposed dispersal of funds for training under the employer choice pilot. [85010]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The Employer Ownership Pilot will be open to employers irrespective of size. We want to encourage small employers to participate by coming forward with proposals for the employer ownership pilot, for example by working in partnership, or through a supply chain. More details will be available in the new year.

Capabilities Programme

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time equivalent staff work on the telecommunications and postal services workstream of the Capabilities programme; and what the staffing level was in each of the last 10 quarters. [79592]

Mr Davey: There are no individual staff who work full-time working on the Capabilities programme. Approximately two full-time equivalent officials in BIS contribute to the telecommunications and postal services elements of the Capabilities programme. Resources have remained broadly stable over the past 10 quarters.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills who the lead Minister in his Department is for the telecommunications and postal services workstream of the Capabilities programme. [79593]

Mr Davey: The hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk) is the Minister responsible for the Capabilities programme as this falls within the telecommunications and postal services workstream.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the budget was for the telecommunications and postal services workstream of the Capabilities programme in each year since 2005; and what the budget will be during the comprehensive spending review period. [79594]

Mr Davey: The Department does not have a budget for the Capabilities programme. Industry is responsible for improvement in its own resilience.

Money Lenders

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints of harassment by money lenders have been received by *(a)* the Office of Fair Trading and *(b)* trading standards in each of the last five years. [83044]

Mr Davey: The Office of Fair Trading maintains a database, on behalf of Trading Standards, of contacts made to the Consumer Direct advice service. Although this includes data on complaints about financial services and consumer credit activities, information about whether or not these complaints involve allegations of harassment is recorded in a number of different ways and it is not possible to extract statistics on the category of complaints described.

Students: Loans

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what monitoring system his Department has in place to track the proportion of student loan funding that is awarded to students studying at *(a)* private and *(b)* for-profit higher education institutions. [85302]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* Information on the amount of student loan funding that is awarded to students studying on specifically designated courses at private providers is held by the Student Loans Company (SLC).

The Department receives quarterly updates from the SLC reporting the amount awarded to students on these courses.

Under the service level agreement between the Department and the SLC, the Department can make further requests for this information.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding over £100,000 his Department's Knowledge and Innovation Directorate allocated to *(a)* voluntary sector, *(b)* charities and *(c)* other third sector organisations in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [82952]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* The Knowledge and Innovation Group was formed at the end of 2010 after allocations for 2010-11 had been made. Most of the group's total budget reaches charities which are higher education institutions or students who attend them. We generally allocate funding to partner organisations which take independent decisions on funding for individual bodies. The following table sets out the available information requested for bodies which are directly funded by the group rather than those whose funding depends on the decisions of independent partner organisations.

Direct grant support over £100,000

2011/12	*£000*
Total national academies	87,465
Royal Society	47,830
British Academy	27,001
Royal Academy of Engineering	12,634
Other support for science	
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEMNET)	6,300
British Science Association	1,530
Engineering UK/Big Bang Education CIC (The Big Bang Fair)	350
UK Resource Centre for Women in SET (UKRC)	500
	8,680
Other	
Design Council	5,312
Natural England	365
UK Council for International Students	300
Tate Britain	291
The British Council	285
European University Institute	229
College of Europe	213
Royal Anniversary Trust	167
Raleigh International Trust	167
Association of Commonwealth Universities	117
National Foundation for Education	115
Royal Botanic Kew Gardens	111
	7,555

HEALTH

Winter Deaths

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional resources he plans to allocate to the NHS to prevent excess deaths in winter 2011-12. [85247]

Anne Milton: The Department launched the first national Cold Weather Plan for England on 1 November 2011. This provides strategic guidance and a framework which national health service trusts can incorporate into their existing local winter planning arrangements. It emphasises good practice which will limit the impact of cold weather on health.

The Department is centrally funding the Met Office for £40,000 to run a Cold Weather Alert system across England from 1 November 2011 to 31 March 2012 in support of the Cold Weather Plan.

To support the aims of the Cold Weather Plan, the Department has established the 'Warm Homes, Healthy People' fund—up to £20 million for winter 2011-12. This is a major new initiative to support local authorities and their partners (including NHS trusts) in reducing deaths and poor health due to cold housing.

The Department will also be providing financial support to the Department of Energy and Climate Change of up to £10 million. This will be used to support Warm Front to help even more households that are vulnerable to fuel poverty in 2011-12.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to prevent excess deaths in the winter of 2011-12. [85339]

Anne Milton: The Department launched the first national Cold Weather Plan on 1 November 2011. The plan sets out what needs to happen before and during periods of severe winter weather in England, and builds on established national and local campaigns for winter health with a more co-ordinated approach. The plan will work through a system of Cold Weather Alerts, linked to the existing winter weather warning system developed by the Met Office, in operation from 1 November to 31 March.

To support the aims of the Cold Weather Plan, the Department has established the 'Warm Homes, Healthy People' fund—up to £20 million for winter 2011-12. This is a major new initiative to support local authorities and their partners in reducing deaths and poor health due to cold housing.

The Department will also be providing financial support to the Department of Energy and Climate Change of up to £10 million. This will be used to support Warm Front to help even more households that are vulnerable to fuel poverty in 2011-12.

Dental Services: EU Nationals

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to provide citizens of other EU countries resident in the UK with dental treatment. [84859]

Mr Simon Burns: All residents of the United Kingdom, including those from another European Union country, are entitled to receive national health service dental treatment in the normal manner. Citizens of other EU countries who are not resident are entitled to the same NHS dental services as citizens ordinarily resident in the UK, and subject to the same charge regime and recognised exemptions, but they must demonstrate their entitlement by possession of a valid European Health Insurance Card.

Departmental ICT

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of progress with his Department's information technology programme; and if he will make a statement. [85243]

Mr Simon Burns: It is presumed that the hon. Member is referring to the National Programme for Information Technology (IT).

In September 2011, we announced, an acceleration of the dismantling of the National Programme for IT. This followed a review by the Cabinet Office's Major Projects Authority that concluded that the programme is not fit to provide the modern information technology services required by the national health service.

Although the National Programme for IT has successfully delivered a number of national applications and services on which the NHS now relies including, choose and book, the Spine, N3 network, NHSmail, Secondary Uses Service and the Picture Archiving and Communications Service, IT support for the NHS needs

to change to meet the requirements of a modernised health care system which aims to restore local control over decision making and greater choice for patients and clinicians over the provision of care.

The weaknesses of a top-down, centrally imposed approach to IT that fails to engage sufficiently with the NHS and is not responsive to local needs are well recognized and we are presently undertaking a comprehensive review of the Department's informatics applications and services portfolio for the NHS. In doing so, we will be taking full account of the recommendations of the recent Public Accounts Committee Report on the National Programme for IT and the advice of the Major Projects Authority.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information NHS trusts are required to collect to monitor *(a)* use of mixed-sex accommodation and *(b)* standards of privacy and dignity provided for patients. [85245]

Mr Simon Burns: We are determined to end mixed-sex accommodation (MSA), except where it is clearly in the best interest of the patient. The following information is collected nationally:

(a) National health service trusts submit the number of breaches of MSA sleeping guidance that occur each month. The providers submit these data split by the relevant commissioning primary care trust(s).

We calculate the MSA breach rate as the number of breaches of MSA sleeping guidance per 1,000 finished consultant episodes (FCEs). The source of FCE data is Inpatient Hospital Episode Statistics.

Organisations also collect (but do not report centrally) all mixed-sex sharing of bathroom/toilet facilities and all mixed provision of day space in mental health units at a local level.

(b) Performance on privacy and dignity is measured via the Care Quality Commission's National Inpatient Survey and by Patient Environment Action Team inspections. These collections are not mandatory, but compliance is very high.

More generally, the NHS Operating Framework 2012-13 requires NHS organisations to "actively seek out, respond positively, and improve services in line with patient feedback. This includes acting on complaints, patient comments, local and national surveys and results from 'real time' data techniques".

NHS: Official Visits

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS organisations he has visited in each month since September 2011. [84863]

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS organisations he has visited in the last three months. [84882]

Mr Simon Burns: During the period 1 September to 30 November, the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has undertaken a range of visits. Those to national health service organisations are as follows:

Date	*NHS organisation*
10 October 2011	North Middlesex Hospital[1]
27 October 2011	Glenfield Hospital[1]
27 October 2011	Leicester Royal Infirmary[1]
3 November 2011	Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust[1]
3 November 2011	James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust[1]
3 November 2011	Cutlers Hill Surgery[2]

[1] Hospital.
[2] General practitioner surgery.

NHS Direct

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls NHS Direct has received in each week since 1 April 2011; and how long on average it took for such calls to be answered in each such week. [84883]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table sets out how many calls NHS Direct has received in each week since 1 April 2011, and the number and percentage of those calls answered within their Key Performance Indicator target of 60 seconds.

Week commencing:	*Number of calls offered*	*Number of calls answered*	*Number of calls answered in 60 seconds*	*Percentage of calls answered in 60 seconds*
28 March 2011	38,249	37,418	35,561	95.0
4 April 2011	82,889	81,997	80,531	98.2
11 April 2011	80,035	79,087	77,445	97.9
18 April 2011	94,562	89,062	76,816	86.3
25 April 2011	97,019	91,842	78,545	85.5
2 May 2011	86,878	85,258	80,745	94.7
9 May 2011	81,003	79,014	74,533	94.3
16 May 2011	81,872	79,760	74,589	93.5
23 May 2011	84,316	80,778	71,396	88.4
30 May 2011	89,181	82,882	64,105	77.3
6 June 2011	83,307	79,998	71,203	89.0
13 June 2011	78,785	75,193	65,505	87.1
20 June 2011	78,454	71,995	55,535	77.1
27 June 2011	81,383	76,157	61,122	80.3
4 July 2011	80,927	76,272	64,624	84.7

Week commencing:	Number of calls offered	Number of calls answered	Number of calls answered in 60 seconds	Percentage of calls answered in 60 seconds
11 July 2011	78,562	75,430	67,235	89.1
18 July 2011	77,012	74,150	66,673	89.9
25 July 2011	75,968	71,624	61,802	86.3
1 August 2011	76,266	69,759	53,139	76.2
8 August 2011	72,716	69,340	60,161	86.8
15August2011	73,276	71,676	67,976	94.8
22 August 2011	73,052	72,142	70,122	97.2
29 August 2011	74,807	73,886	72,214	97.7
5 September 2011	68,821	67,634	65,435	96.7
12 September 2011	68,082	67,024	64,937	96.9
19 September 2011	66,348	64,637	60,843	94.1
26 September 2011	64,131	62,821	60,216	95.9
3 October 2011	71,770	70,745	68,993	97.5
10 October 2011	72,709	71,608	69,501	97.1
17 October 2011	72,301	71,146	68,894	96.8
24 October 2011	62,613	60,523	55,812	92.2
31 October 2011	69,699	68,558	65,970	96.2
7 November 2011	71,701	70,807	69,228	97.8
14 November 2011	69,950	69,056	67,485	97.7
21 November 2011	72,820	70,242	64,686	92.1
28 November 2011	28,034	27,653	26,841	97.1

Month	Number of calls offered	Number of calls answered	Number of calls answered in 60 seconds	Percentage of calls answered in 60 seconds
April 2011	376,754	363,976	335,460	92.2
May 2011	377,906	366,757	337,579	92.0
June 2011	345,278	324,750	268,622	82.7
July 2011	350,464	332,434	286,304	86.1
August 2011	327,935	315,249	283,245	89.8
September 2011	289,680	284,361	273,697	96.2
October 2011	308,912	302,826	290,397	95.9
November 2011	302,569	296,821	285,115	96.1
Year to date	2,679,498	2,587,174	2,360,419	91.2

Source:
NHS Direct Symposium

NHS: Drugs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Guidance approval of the Velcade Response Scheme in October 2007, how many schemes involving the manufacturers of pharmaceuticals paying back money to the NHS were approved by NICE between January 2008 and May 2010; and how much such schemes have been approved since May 2010. [84934]

Mr Simon Burns: The Velcade (bortezomib) response scheme is an outcome-based patient access scheme involving possible repayments from the manufacturer to national health service organisations linked to patient response which is monitored as part of the scheme. To date, the Velcade response scheme is the only patient access scheme of this type which has been incorporated in technology appraisal guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

Patient access schemes proposed by manufacturers in the context of NICE technology appraisals may take a variety of forms, some of which include options for the NHS to receive a cash rebate, free stock or credit linked to the purchase of a drug. A full list of drugs recommended by NICE in association with patient access schemes is available on the Institute's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/paslu/ListOfPatientAccessSchemesApprovedAsPartOfANICEAppraisal.jsp

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the manufacturers of Velcade have paid back to the NHS under the Velcade Response Scheme in each year since the scheme was approved. [84935]

Mr Simon Burns: Implementation and operation of Patient Access schemes, of which the Velcade scheme is one, is a matter for the pharmaceutical manufacturer and the national health service.

The Department does not collect national data on such schemes.

NHS: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of NHS capital expenditure in each of the next three financial years. [85244]

Mr Simon Burns: The 2010 spending review provided the following planned profile of capital expenditure for the Department (the current year is included for completeness):

Spending review 2010

				£ million
	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Gross capital expenditure	4,648	4,616	4,630	4,831
Asset sale receipts[1]	-219	-187	-193	-183
Net capital expenditure	4,429	4,429	4,437	4,648

[1] HM Treasury funding is provided net of asset sales receipts; these are included to show total expenditure forecast.

NHS: Negligence

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many unsuccessful clinical negligence claims were brought against the NHS in each year since 1997-98; and how much unsuccessful claimants spent in *(a)* defence costs and *(b)* claimant costs in each year. [84885]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of unsuccessful clinical negligence claims brought against the national health service since 1997-98 is set out in the following table. The defence costs and claimant costs for unsuccessful claimants are not known.

	Number
1997-98	812
1998-99	3,108
1999-2000	3,836
2000-01	5,762
2001-02	5,966
2002-03	4,780
2003-04	3,339
2004-05	2,691
2005-06	2,540
2006-07	2,225
2007-08	1,920
2008-09	2,022
2009-10	1,793
2010-11	2,097

Note:
There are a number of claims outstanding in each year, so these data are subject to change as these claims are resolved.
Source:
NHS Litigation Authority

Nurses: Schools

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* qualified and *(b)* other school nurses are employed in each (i) region and (ii) primary care trust; and how many such nurses were employed in each such area in each year since 1997. [85176]

Anne Milton: The headcount number of qualified and other school nurses employed in each strategic health authority and primary care trust since 2003 is shown in the table which has been placed in the Library.

The School Nursing Occupation Code was not introduced until 2003. Prior to this it was not possible to separately identify school nursing within the data. Because of the timing of its introduction in 2003 the code was not mandatory at the time of the annual work force census. Therefore, the data for 2003 are very likely to be incomplete and should not be considered as a full picture of the size of that work force at the time.

The headcount data for 2010 are based upon new methodology and therefore are not directly comparable with the previous years data based upon the old methodology.

Psychiatry: Waiting Lists

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in England waiting for access to psychological therapies; and what the average waiting time was for such therapies in the most recent period for which figures are available. [84858]

Paul Burstow: The Quarter 1 performance statistics for Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services released by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care in September this year, showed that there is variation in the numbers of people entering treatment across the country. Nationally, the Department is meeting agreed trajectories. However, there is local variation. The central IAPT team and the departmental performance delivery team have undertaken a number of actions to encourage improvement in access in the areas where the numbers of people entering treatment is below expectations.

The Department is not able to establish the average waiting time from the NHS Information Centre data. From April 2012, we will be implementing the new IAPT Data Standard. Once the data standard is established and the data quality is assured across all IAPT services, it will be possible to establish the average waiting time in IAPT services.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband: Finance

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will publish his criteria for the allocation of funding to the 40 local areas for superfast broadband. [85353]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) published a data model explanatory note setting out the methodology used to make the local authority funding allocations in July 2011. A copy can be found on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) website, or by using the link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/BDUK-Data-Model-Expalantory-Notes.pdf

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications

remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84220]

John Penrose: The following table provides the total number of press officers, internal and external communications officers, communications strategy officers and other positions with a communications remit employed by the Department as at 30 November 2011.

Job title	*Total number of employees*
Press officers	10
Communication officers (internal and external)	21
Communications strategy officers	6
Other positions	9
Total	46

The Department is committed to reduce its administrative budget by 50% over the period of the comprehensive spending review. That will include a reduction in its communications head count. As part of this, with the conclusion of the London 2012 Project in October 2012, all secondments and fixed term appointments to the Government Olympic Executive Communications team (18 posts) will end.

The Department does not hold this information for our agency and arm's length bodies. I have therefore asked their chief executives to consider the question raised by the hon. Member and to write to him direct. Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what steps his Department takes to ensure that all flags flown from his Department's buildings are fit for display; [84667]

(2) how many flags his Department has replaced in each of the last 12 months; [84669]

(3) how many *(a)* letters, *(b)* emails and *(c)* telephone calls his Department has received on the state and condition of flags flown from his Department's buildings in the last 12 months; [84670]

(4) how many flags his Department *(a)* owns and *(b)* maintains; and at what cost to the public purse. [84671]

John Penrose: The Department flies one Union flag at a hire charge (no purchase or replacement cost) of £95 a month. This hire cost will be reviewed early next year. The flag is changed and cleaned once a month to ensure it is fit for display. To celebrate St George's Day, St Andrew's Day and St David's Day the Department owns a St George's flag, a Saltire flag and Welsh Dragon flag. These are inspected once a year and, if required, new flags are procured. However there has been no expenditure on these flags in the past 12 months. We have no records of any letters, e-mails or telephone calls in the last 12 months on the state and condition of the flags we fly.

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [85701]

John Penrose: This Department requires its non-departmental public bodies to have in place processes to manage risk and develop a formal risk management strategy (which includes maintaining risk registers) in accordance with Treasury guidance contained in Managing Public Money:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/mpm_ch4.pdf

The risk strategy is reviewed by the bodies' own boards and by their audit committees and auditors.

Mobile Phones

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will publish his plans for the recently announced £150 million investment in mobile telephone coverage in the period up to 2015; and if he will make a statement. [85354]

Mr Vaizey: The mobile phone project is currently in the definition stage and expects to commence procurement early in 2012. The allocation of funds will be dependent upon the delivery model and procurement route to be followed, it is expected that an outline allocation will be clear by the early stages of any procurement approach with final allocations confirmed in later stages. It is envisaged that any contract(s) will be awarded for delivery of services to commence in 2013.

Olympic Games 2012: Folk Dance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 753W, on Olympic Games 2012: folk dance, what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in respect of the opening and closing ceremonies; whether such discussions included reference to the inclusion of English traditional folk dance; and if he will make a statement. [85267]

Hugh Robertson: Ministers at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport meet representatives of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) about various London 2012 matters including ceremonies. There were no specific discussions about the inclusion of traditional folk dance in the opening and closing ceremonies. The details of the opening and closing ceremonies are a matter for LOCOG. LOCOG has appointed a world class group of creative experts to develop Olympic and Paralympic ceremonies that will reflect this country's rich and diverse culture and heritage.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning: Change of Use

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish the findings of his Department's consultation on the relaxation of planning rules for change of use from commercial to residential. [84107]

Greg Clark: We are considering the responses to the consultation 'Relaxation of planning rules for change of use from commercial to residential' and will publish the findings in due course.

Fire Services: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* wholetime, *(b)* retained, *(c)* control and *(d)* non-uniform staff were employed in each fire authority in England on 31 March 2011; and if he will update his Department's Operational Statistics Bulletin of 24 August 2011 to include (i) information and (ii) the strength of each fire authority. [R] [85215]

Robert Neill: Numbers of staff employed by each fire and rescue authority on 31 March 2011 for the stated categories are published on the Department's website in table 6 of the appendix tables which accompany the Fire and Rescue Operational Statistics Bulletin:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/researchandstatistics/firestatistics/firerescue/

The Fire and Rescue Operational Statistics Bulletin also continues to include staffing strength. Numbers by fire and rescue authority can be found in appendix table 2 of the accompanying spreadsheets.

A copy of this information has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Government Procurement Card

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 483W, on Freedom of Information, if the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Government Procurement Card transaction of a cash withdrawal for £154.86 on 28 November 2004, and associated £3.10 cash advance handling fee, was an overseas transaction; and in which country the cash withdrawal took place. [82429]

Robert Neill: Based on the information available, this was likely to be a foreign currency transaction that was made in London. However, detailed records about the nature of the transaction, which would facilitate a more comprehensive answer, are no longer held centrally.

Non-domestic Rates: Worcester

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* cost to the public purse of appeals of business rates valuations in Worcester constituency in the last two years. [85040]

Robert Neill: The number of formal challenges received for Worcester city council for the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 are shown in the following table.

	Formal challenges received by the Valuation Office Agency	
	2009-10	*2010-11*
2005 list	410	90
2010 list	n/a	390

Statistics by parliamentary constituency could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the cost to the public purse of appeals is not held centrally.

Parking: City of Westminster

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what discussions officials from his Department have had with Westminster city council on its proposal to generate additional income from parking charges at evenings and weekends; and if he will make a statement; [83600]

(2) what his policy is in respect of the generation of income by local authorities from parking charges. [83578]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 28 November 2011]:* Officials have not held specific discussions with Westminster city council on this issue.

Every bit of the public sector needs to do its bit to help tackle the budget deficit inherited from the last Administration. But Ministers have been quite clear that we view increasing charges on local residents as an inappropriate way of making sensible savings. Instead, councils should be saving money through better procurement, cutting fraud, more joint working and using transparency to drive out waste. This stance on charging is different from the last Administration, when DCLG Ministers actively encouraged councils to increase parking charges (for example, as alluded to in the speech to the Local Government Association of 2 July 2008).

More broadly, as outlined in the answer to the hon. Member of 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 650W, there are clear legal restrictions preventing councils from using on-street parking charges as a way of raising general revenue. This is explicitly stated in operational guidance and in statutory guidance on civil enforcement of parking contraventions, and is reflected in case law: for example, Regina *v.* Camden London Borough Council Ex Parte Cran and Others [1995] EWHC 13 (Admin).

Councils have a key role in promoting economic development, supporting local economic growth and local jobs. Making sure that car parking charges are reasonable is an important and practical way in which councils can help support their local high streets. In this context, I am concerned about the effect of higher parking charges on the broader economy of London and the West End, particularly its impact on employees, small firms and sole traders.

This Government have taken steps to support local high streets. Our plans for the local retention of business rates will mean that councils have a direct financial incentive in supporting business and retail growth in

town centres. This is in contrast to the local government system we have inherited, where councils have no real incentives to support local high streets and city centres.

My Department has also tackled flawed parking rules inherited from the last Administration. In January 2011, we amended national planning guidance to:

remove Whitehall restrictions which imposed maximum numbers of parking spaces in new residential developments;

change a policy which inhibited competition between council areas to one that said parking charges should not undermine the vitality of town centres;

introduce a policy that parking enforcement should be proportionate;

remove the policy that encouraged councils to set car parking charges to discourage the use of cars; and

increase support for electric car power-charging infrastructure in parking areas.

The draft National Planning Policy Framework follows through on these changes by removing restrictions which impose maximum numbers of parking spaces in new non-residential developments. This will relieve pressure on on-street parking and support local high streets.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the *(a)* net and *(b)* gross income from parking charges in each London local authority in each of the last 10 years. [83577]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table giving details on the gross and net income from parking services in each London local authority for the last 10 years.

Planning Permission: Biodiversity

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the *(a)* Home Affairs and *(b)* Economic Affairs Cabinet Sub-Committee has discussed the implications of the draft National Planning Policy Framework for the natural environment. [84031]

Greg Clark: In line with the constitutional convention of collective decision-making, and section 2 of the Ministerial Code, the Government, in line with their predecessors, do not disclose details of the internal process through which decisions are taken.

Planning Permission: Carbon Emissions

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of the draft National Planning Policy Framework on carbon emissions. [84026]

Greg Clark: The draft National Planning Policy Framework was accompanied by a consultation stage impact assessment which considered the anticipated impact of the framework on carbon emissions and is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1951736.pdf

The draft framework states that the planning system should aim to secure, consistent with the Government's published objectives, radical reductions in green house gas emissions, through the appropriate location and layout of new development, and active support for energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings and the delivery of renewable and low-carbon energy infrastructure. We are now carefully considering all consultation responses, and will then publish the final version of the framework together with a final impact assessment.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84197]

Robert Neill: The Department uses postcodes for a number of operational purposes other than the delivery of mail. They are a valuable means of referencing geographic locations and are widely used and understood by the general public because of their relationship to addresses.

They are principally used by the Department for the compilation, validation, and collation of statistics and to provide accessible information to citizens in support of, for example, the Transparency agenda.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that planning policy encourages the development of *(a)* high streets, *(b)* town centres and *(c)* empty commercial properties; and if he will make a statement. [84650]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The Government are fully committed to supporting our high streets and town centres and to maintaining a strong "town centre first" policy which identifies town centres as the preferred location for retail developments. The draft National Planning Policy Framework asks local planning authorities to pursue policies to support the viability and vitality of town centres. We are now considering all responses to the consultation.

We are also considering the responses to the consultation "Relaxation of planning rules for change of use from commercial to residential" and will publish the findings in due course.

With regard to empty commercial properties, the Government supported the work to create industry standard "meanwhile" leases to encourage temporary occupation of empty retail premises in order to improve the vitality of town centres.

Town centres have suffered under restrictions on parking introduced by the previous Administration, reducing their ability to compete with out of town supermarkets.

Consequently, in January, my Department amended planning rules on parking to:

(a) change a policy which inhibited competition between council areas to one that said parking charges should not undermine the vitality of town centres;

(b) introduce a policy that parking enforcement should be proportionate;

(c) remove the policy that encouraged councils to set car parking charges to discourage the use of cars; and

(d) encourage more charging spaces for electric cars.

The draft National Planning Policy Framework also proposes to remove Whitehall restrictions which impose an arbitrary cap on parking spaces in new non-residential developments.

Waste Disposal: Second-hand Goods

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it is his policy to support by-laws enabling local authorities to selectively license premises dealing in second-hand goods for the purposes of preventing the disposal of stolen goods. [84779]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* Our policy is that byelaws are not appropriate where national legislation already exists to address the issue in question. National legislation already prohibits the handling of stolen goods.

PRIME MINISTER

Youth Unemployment

Q14. **John Mann:** To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the level of youth unemployment. [85115]

The Prime Minister: The problem of rising youth unemployment has been ongoing since 2004. Comprehensive action is required to ensure young people have sustained employment opportunities in the private sector.

So the Government have launched the £1 billion Youth Contract, which will provide an extra 250,000 work experience places and 160,000 wage incentive payments.

The Government are also providing over 440,000 apprenticeship places this year, opening up 24 University Technical Colleges and ensuring vulnerable young people have faster access to the specialised support of the Work programme.

This Government are also reforming our schools so that young people leave better equipped to join the work force.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Birds of Prey

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the number of birds of prey in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [84578]

Richard Benyon: As set out in the following table are the current estimates of breeding populations of diurnal birds of prey in the UK. The estimates derive from the observations of many hundreds of volunteer observers who contribute to annual monitoring programmes (such as the Breeding Bird Survey) and periodic surveys funded by: the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC); the country conservation agencies; the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; the Raptor Study Groups; the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO); and other partner organisations, as well as through the work of the JNCC and BTO co-funded Rare Breeding Birds Panel.

Species	*Most recent estimation of UK population size*	*Units of estimation*	*Period*	*Source*
Honey-buzzard	33-69	Pairs	2000	Batten, LA. 2001. European Honey-buzzard Survey 2000 and 2001: preliminary results and request for further surveys. British Birds 94:143-144.
				Ogilvie, M.A. 2003. European Honey-buzzards in the UK—correction to breeding totals. British Birds 96: 145.
Red Kite	1,500+	Pairs	2009	Holling, M, and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel 2011. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2009. British Birds 104: 476-537.
White-tailed Eagle	39-46	Pairs	2009	Holling, M. and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel 2011. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2009. British Birds 104: 476-537.
Marsh Harrier	404	Breeding females/pairs	2005-09	Holling, M. and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel 2011. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2009. British Birds 104: 476-537.
Hen Harrier	633	Territorial pairs	2010	Hayhow, D.B., Bladwell, S, Etheridge, B., Ewing, S., Ruddock, M., Saunders, R,, Sharpe, C, Sim, I.M.W., Stevenson, A., Eaton, M.A. (In preparation). The status of the Hen Harrier, Circus cyaneus, in the UK and Isle of Man in 2010.
Montagu's Harrier	15	Pairs	2005-09	Holling, M. and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel 2011. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2009. British Birds 104: 476-537.

Species	Most recent estimation of UK population size	Units of estimation	Period	Source
Goshawk	431	Pairs	2005-09	Holling, M. and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel 2011. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2009. British Birds 104: 476-537.
Sparrowhawk	41,000	Pairs	2000	Stone, B.H., Sears, J., Cranswick, PA, Gregory, R.D., Gibbons, D.W., Rehfisch, M.M., Aebischer, N.J., and Reid, J.B. 1997. Population estimates of birds in Britain and in the United Kingdom. British Birds 90: 1-22. Crick, H.Q.P., Marchant, J. H,, Noble, D. G., Baillie, S. R., Balmer, D. E., Beaven, L P., Coombes, R. H., Downie, I. S., Freeman, S. N., Joys, A. C, Leech, D. I., Raven, M. J., Robinson, R. A., and Thewlis, R. M. 2004. Breeding Birds in the Wider Countryside: their conservation status 2003. BTO Research Report No. 353. BTO, Thetford.
Buzzard	72,529-90,661	Pairs	2009	Total derives from Clements' estimate corrected with BBS trend to 2009 (Avian Population Estimates Panel in prep).. Clements, R. 2002. The Common Buzzard in Britain: a new population estimate. British Birds 95: 377-383. Risely, K., Baillie, S.R., Eaton, M.A., Joys, A.C., Musgrove, A.J., Noble, D.G., Renwick, A.R. and Wright, L.J. 2010. The Breeding Bird Survey 2009. BTO Research Report 559. British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford
Golden Eagle	442	Pairs	2003	Eaton, M.A., Dillon, I.A., Stirling-Aird, P.K., Whitfield, D.P. 2007. Status of golden eagle Aquila chrysaetos in Britain in 2003. Bird Study 54: 212-220.
Osprey	180	Pairs	2005-09	Holling, M. and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel 2011. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2009. British Birds 104: 476-537.
Kestrel	46,430	Pairs	2009	Total derives from estimate of 1988-92 breeding Atlas corrected with BBS trend to 2009 (Avian Population Estimates Panel in prep). Gibbons, D.W., Reid, J.B. and Chapman, R.A. 1993 The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991. London, T, and A.D. Poyser. 520 pp. Risely, K., Baillie, S.R., Eaton, M.A., Joys, A.C., Musgrove, A.J., Noble, D.G., Renwick, A.R. and Wright, U. 2010. The Breeding Bird Survey 2009. BTO Research Report 559. British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford.
Merlin	1,160 (912-1,532)	Pairs	2008	Holling, M. and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel 2010. Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2008. British Birds 103: 482-538.
Hobby	2,200	Pairs	2000	Clements, R. 2001. The Hobby in Britain: a new population estimate. British Birds 94: 402-408.
Peregrine	1,499	Pairs	2002	Banks, A.N., Crick, H.P.Q., Coombes, R.H., Benn, S., Ratcliffe, D.A. and Humphreys, E.M. 2010. The breeding status of the Peregrine Falcon Falco peregrinus in the United Kingdom and Isle of Man in 2002. Bird Study 57: 421-436.

Heating: Hydrofluorocarbons

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress her Department has made in phasing out hydrofluorocarbons from domestic heat pumps. [84038]

Mr Paice: A comprehensive EU regulatory framework to contain, prevent and thereby reduce emissions of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) from equipment such as heat pumps is already in place, having been fully implemented since 2009 in Great Britain by the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/261). However, this framework stops short of controls to phase out the production of the gases themselves.

There are existing proposals at an international level to use the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to phase down the production and use of HFCs. This would affect all types of equipment, not just domestic heat pumps. The UK Government remains supportive in principle of an international phase-down of production and consumption of HFCs but there are many technical issues to be discussed before any formal negotiations on a phase-down could take place. The Government will continue to push for the development of a phase-down agreement at future Montreal Protocol and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meetings and support this aim. Further detailed analysis of impacts of the proposals will be conducted.

The latest estimate of HFC emissions from Heat Pumps, based on the assessment by consultants AEA, which is available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/fgas/background.htm#publications

is that 0.06 kt CO_2 eq. of HFC134a would be emitted from heat pumps in 2009, rising to 0.16 kt CO_2 eq. of HFC134a by 2025. It should be noted that these estimates

include all heat pumps, not just domestic ones, are highly uncertain, and also very small in relation to HFC emissions from the other sectors. These estimates are not currently included in either the main F-gas model or the UK national green house gas emission totals, and further work is needed to refine the fundamental parameters before the emissions from this sector can be included.

Marine Conservation Zones

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the effect of the European Commission's proposed system of regionalisation in the basic regulations of the reformed EU Common Fisheries Policy on management systems for marine conservation zones; [85015]

(2) whether she plans to reorganise nationally designated marine conservation zones following reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy; [85016]

(3) what assessment she has made of the effect of delays to reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy on designation of marine conservation zones. [85017]

Richard Benyon: As UK Fisheries Minister I will carry out an assessment of all elements of the European Commission's proposals on reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) will be designated for their contribution to an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas. Their location will be determined by the distribution of marine species and habitats, along with consideration of the potential socio-economic impacts of the proposed MCZs. As their locations will be determined by the ecology and the impacts on sea users, I do not anticipate that reform of the CFP would have any effect on the designation process or require any reorganisation.

River Nene: Fishing

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Environment Agency is taking to tackle illegal fishing on the River Nene in Cambridgeshire; and if she will make a statement. [84167]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency is aware of a concern among anglers that illegal fishing may be affecting fish stocks on some rivers, the River Nene being an example. While most anglers return their catch, there is a culture within some communities to retain fish for the table.

The issue was recognised some years ago and fisheries byelaws have recently changed to make it an offence to remove most fish from our rivers. The Environment Agency employs officers to enforce the byelaws and respond to reports of illegal activity. They work with local angling clubs and request police assistance if appropriate.

In addition to enforcement, education is also important, and the Environment Agency is working with the Angling Trust on a 'Building Bridges' project. A project officer has been appointed to explain our culture and fisheries legislation to these communities. An angling event to promote this was held in Cambridgeshire in late November.

Rural Areas: Renewable Energy

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish details of *(a)* the Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund and *(b)* the sources of its funding. [84655]

Richard Benyon: Further details about the Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund, including its funding, management and operation, will be published in the new year.

Rural Growth Network

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish the criteria for the competition to identify the Rural Growth Network pilot projects. [84656]

Richard Benyon: Further information about the Rural Growth Network competition and selection process will be announced during this month, with bids from Local Enterprise Partnerships likely to be invited by the end of January 2012. We aim to announce the pilot areas by March 2012.

Waste Disposal: Business

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to introduce responsibility deals for business waste. [84528]

Richard Benyon: The Review of Waste Policy in England, which we published in June 2011, committed the Government to exploring the potential for new voluntary responsibility deals to drive waste prevention and recycling. These include deals with the hospitality sector, the waste management industry and for direct mail, textiles, and construction waste. Responsibility deals in other areas may also be considered.

A responsibility deal with the Environmental Services Association was published on 23 June. Among the deal's key commitments are providing better advice about waste prevention, improving recycling collections for small and medium enterprises, raising the industry's environmental profile, adhering to best practice in making contracts more user-friendly, and sharing data about key trends.

A new responsibility deal on direct mail was launched on 1 November. It commits the Government and the direct marketing industry to working together to improve the industry's environmental performance and, in particular, support a move towards a zero-waste, low-carbon economy. The new deal will give people more control over what gets posted through their letterboxes and ensure that the direct mail they find useful is produced to higher standards and is fully recyclable.

DEFRA is working with the industry, devolved Administrations and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to produce a new responsibility deal with businesses in the hospitality and food service sector to reduce food and packaging waste and ensure that unavoidable waste is managed sustainably. On

22 November, a discussion paper outlining the proposed targets and structure of the deal was published on WRAP'S website:

www.wrap.org.uk

Comments about this paper will be used to produce the final deal, which we hope to launch in spring 2012.

Whaling

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the international bans on *(a)* whaling and *(b)* the international trade of whale products. [84636]

Richard Benyon: The UK strongly supports the International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium on commercial whaling. This was introduced in 1986 and has seen a dramatic reduction in the number of whales being killed. The UK will continue to oppose ongoing commercial and 'scientific' whaling and press for the greater conservation and protection of whales.

I attended this year's IWC meeting to demonstrate the UK Government's commitment to the work of the IWC, and our support for the moratorium on whaling.

The UK firmly supports the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) restrictions on international trade in whale meat and whale products. The EU prohibits the international trade in all whale meat and products.

Under CITES, a Party with a reservation placed against a species of whale can trade in that species, but only with a non-Party to CITES or a Party who has similarly placed a reservation. Iceland, Japan, Norway and Palau have reservations in place against several whale species listings, and for example, Iceland can, and does, trade in fin whale meat with Japan.

Whaling: Faroe Islands

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Faroese government on the hunting of whales, dolphins and porpoises by Faroese fishermen. [84637]

Richard Benyon: The UK Government recognise the strength of feeling in the UK about the hunting of cetaceans in the Faroe Islands. As pilot whales and other small cetaceans are not covered by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium on commercial whaling, it is for the Faroese Government to decide whether to continue these hunts.

Nevertheless, the UK has long been concerned about the cruel way in which these hunts are conducted and has pressed for improvements for a number of years, both directly and within the IWC. I will continue to make our strong opposition to these hunts known to the Faroe Islands.

We also made progress at this year's annual meeting of the 'Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas' (ASCOBANS). The UK raised concerns about the increasing numbers, and diversity of species being taken, namely Risso's and white-sided dolphins. In response, the Faroe Islands indicated that the hunting of Risso's dolphins would not continue.

EDUCATION

Carers: Young People

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department is taking steps to ensure local authorities *(a)* identify young carers in families affected by illness, disability or substance misuse and *(b)* assess the support needs of such carers. [84777]

Tim Loughton: We know that the identification of young carers remains the single biggest challenge to ensuring that they receive the support to which they are entitled. To that end my Department is funding The Children's Society and The Princess Royal Trust for Carers for two years to: identify and share existing best practice in identifying and supporting young carers and their families; and run regional workshops with local authorities and young carers services to support the delivery of 'whole family' support for young carers and their families. We have also funded the development of an e-learning package for staff in schools on identifying and supporting young carers.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many local authorities are using the model memorandum of understanding on working together to support young carers. [84907]

Tim Loughton: We do not yet hold this information. The Department is funding The Children's Society to run regional workshops with local authorities and young carers services to support the delivery of 'whole family' support for young carers and their families. The local authorities that attend the regional workshops will be surveyed to establish the number that have adopted the model memorandum of understanding drafted by the Associations of Directors of Adult and Children's services.

Schools: Sports

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many school sports co-ordinators there were in each local authority area for each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [81692]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The Department does not hold this information for each of the years requested. However, the following table shows the number of school sport co-ordinators that were in each local authority for the 2010-11 financial year.

LEA	*Total of school sport co-ordinators*
Barking and Dagenham (LB)	11
Barnet (LB)	23
Barnsley	17
Bath and North East Somerset	15
Bedfordshire	57
Bexley (LB)	19
Birmingham	78
Blackburn with Darwen	12
Blackpool	9
Bolton	14
Bournemouth	11

LEA	Total of school sport co-ordinators
Bracknell Forest	5
Bradford	32
Brent (LB)	15
Brighton and Hove	12
Bristol City	27
Bromley (LB)	20
Buckinghamshire	34
Bury	14
Calderdale	15
Cambridgeshire	34
Camden (LB)	10
Cheshire	48
Cornwall	32
Coventry	23
Croydon (LB)	24
Cumbria	45
Darlington	8
Derby	13
Derbyshire	46
Devon	37.5
Doncaster	20
Dorset	33
Dudley	20.5
Durham	40
Ealing (LB)	15
East Riding of Yorkshire	18
East Sussex	31
Enfield (LB)	20
Essex	79.5
Gateshead	11
Gloucestershire	46
Greenwich (LB)	13
Hackney (LB)	14
Halton	8
Hammersmith and Fulham (LB)	9
Hampshire	76
Haringey (LB)	13
Harrow (LB)	9
Hartlepool	6.5
Havering (LB)	14
Herefordshire	16
Hertfordshire	87.5
Hillingdon (LB)	17
Hounslow (LB)	15
Isle of Wight	16
Isles of Scilly	1
Islington (LB)	12
Kensington and Chelsea (LB)	5
Kent	107
Kingston upon Hull	16
Kingston upon Thames (LB)	9
Kirklees	34
Knowsley	16
Lambeth (LB)	14
Lancashire	91
Leeds	48
Leicester	19
Leicestershire	54
Lewisham (LB)	14
Lincolnshire	66
Liverpool	33.5
Luton	15
Manchester	28.5
Medway	19
Merton (LB)	9
Middlesbrough	10
Milton Keynes	12
Newcastle upon Tyne	16.5
Newham(LB)	14.5
Norfolk	51
North East Lincolnshire	12
North Lincolnshire	17
North Somerset	10
North Tyneside	17
North Yorkshire	52
Northamptonshire	44
Northumberland	67
Nottingham	21
Nottinghamshire	48
Oldham	16
Oxfordshire	36
Peterborough	17
Plymouth	19
Poole	10
Portsmouth	10
Reading	7
Redbridge (LB)	17.5
Redcar and Cleveland	13
Richmond Upon Thames (LB)	7
Rochdale	16
Rotherham	17
Rutland	3
Salford	19
Sandwell	23
Sefton	22
Sheffield	31
Shropshire	23
Slough	13
Solihull	15
Somerset	39
South Gloucestershire	18
South Tyneside	12
Southampton	16
Southend-on-Sea	16
Southwark (LB)	20
St Helens	12
Staffordshire	73.5
Stockport	16
Stockton-on-Tees	14
Stoke-on-Trent	20
Suffolk	84.5
Sunderland	21
Surrey	57
Sutton (LB)	14
Swindon	13
Tameside	18
Telford and Wrekin	17
Thurrock	12
Torbay	8
Tower Hamlets (LB)	15
Trafford	17
Wakefield	19

LEA	Total of school sport co-ordinators
Walsall	23
Waltham Forest (LB)	21
Wandsworth (LB)	13
Warrington	14
Warwickshire	38
West Berkshire	11
West Sussex	44
Westminster (LB)	12
Wigan	21
Wiltshire	29.5
Windsor and Maidenhead	13
Wirral	23
Wokingham	9
Wolverhampton	19
Worcestershire	71
York City	14

Youth Services: Per Capita Costs

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much each English local authority reported in the S251 financial returns as outturn expenditure on *(a)* youth work, *(b)* Connexions and *(c)* all provisions for young people per capita in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [82655]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* A copy of the tables showing outturn expenditure per capita for each local authority in England on *(a)* youth work, *(b)* Connexions and *(c)* all provision of activities for young people in 2008-09 and 2009-10 has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

There is significant variation between local authorities in the amounts shown under each category which may reflect different interpretations of the guidance on completing the returns. The Department has commissioned a full review of how the data are collected, what they are used for, and of quality assurance.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much money the Child Support Agency has received but not yet passed on to the parent with care; [84267]

(2) how long it takes the Child Support Agency to pass maintenance payments on to the parent with care. [84268]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency (CSA), the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the CSA is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (the Commission).

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much money the Child Support Agency has received but not yet passed on to the parent with care. [84267]; and

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how long it takes the Child Support Agency to pass maintenance payments on to the parent with care. [84268]

The CSA holds money received from non-resident parents in a separate bank account maintained specifically for client funds. The balance of the client fund account is the amount received which has not yet been paid out to parents with care or the Secretary of State, as appropriate.

This amount is disclosed in the Client Funds Account published on the Commission's website here:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/pdf/CMEC-Client-Funds-Account-09-10.pdf

The last published accounts state that at 31 March 2010, the balance was £16.3 million. Of this balance, £8.0 million of receipts had not yet cleared into the account, and £8.3 million was in the process of being assigned and allocated before payment. The Client Funds Account for 2010/2011 will be published in the near future.

Payments are not made to the parent with care until such time as the receipt from the non-resident parent has cleared the banking system. Once the funds are cleared the payment is initiated by the method agreed with the parent with care. The CSA's preferred method is by direct credit to a bank account in the name of the parent with care.

In September 2011 96% of payments for cases on the CSCS system and 98% of payments on CS2 system were made within seven days.

The following table also shows in September 2011 the number of days it took to pass on maintenance payments to parents with care, split by CS2 and CSCS.

	Percentage of payments	
Number of days	CSCS	CS2
Same day	—	45
1 day	21	9
2 days	20	8
3 days	15	3
4 days	17	6
5 days	1	3
6 days	2	4
7 days	20	20
7+ days	5	3

Notes:

1. There are currently two statutory child maintenance schemes in operation: the 1993 scheme (for cases initiated before 3 March 2003) administered on the CSCS and CS2 computer systems; and the 2003 (for cases commenced on or after 3 March 2003) administered on the CS2 computer system.
2. Figures do not include cases managed off-system.
3. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
4. These figures are calculated from the date in which the Commission received cleared funds from the non-resident parent to when the Commission sends payment to the parent with care.

The majority of payments are made to parents within seven days of receiving cleared funds from the non-resident parent. This can be longer if insufficient information is provided by the payer to enable the CSA to allocate the receipt to the correct case (such as the case reference number or the non-resident parent's national insurance number) and consequently to allow the transaction to be processed. In this case, the money is kept in a holding account allowing for checks to take place to allocate the payment to a non-resident parent. Once the funds have been allocated then funds are typically paid out on the same day for cases on CS2 system or within one day for CSCS system.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Child Support Agency in collecting payments from a non-resident parent. [84602]

Maria Miller: The proportion of parents with a statutory maintenance liability paying child maintenance in September 2011 was 77.8%.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, which is also responsible for the Child Support Agency, has improved its effectiveness in collecting payments from the non-resident parents over the past few years, but we recognise that much more needs to be done. More than three million children live in separated families, but only around 50% of those benefit from an effective maintenance arrangement. In addition the annual running costs of the statutory maintenance scheme is approximately £460 million, on average a cost of around 40p for each £1 of child maintenance collected or arranged, and this does not represent value for money to the taxpayer.

The Green Paper consultation document published in January—'Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance'—outlines our assessment of some of the issues of the current system and sets out our plans for the radical reshaping of the child maintenance system. The Government's response to the consultation was published on 12 July.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the suitability of the assessment criteria used by the Child Support Agency for child maintenance payments. [84603]

Maria Miller: There are currently two child support schemes, each with quite different rules. On the older of the two schemes, the information about our clients is so historic that almost 200,000 cases are assessed as needing to pay nothing. Around half of children living in separated families have no effective financial arrangement in place at all. All this means that many children are missing out.

This is why we want to reform the system and introduced our Green Paper, 'Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child Maintenance' published in January 2011, in which we confirmed plans to introduce a single new child maintenance scheme from 2012. This new scheme will make use of income data from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

On 1 December 2011 the Government launched a public consultation for views on the draft regulations for the future scheme. Further details can be found here:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/consultations.html

Housing Benefit: Manpower

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will announce what will happen to staff currently administering housing benefit when it is replaced by universal credit. [85331]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit is a national benefit. It will be delivered largely through an online service, with its core administration most efficiently run by a centralised system. As the DWP start to build the organisation to deliver universal credit, and we have yet to settle on the precise detail, and select the right people with the right capability it is likely some of those skills will exist within local authorities. We will therefore always look to include local authority staff in our thinking.

In relation to the longer-term delivery of universal credit, we will continue to work with colleagues in HM Revenue and Customs and local authorities to test new ways of working and impact ongoing delivery model design at both a national and local level. Our aim is to work collaboratively to enable the decision making process and deliver optimal value. This includes the decision making around any redundancies, for which we have small amount in our business case (whether they are in DWP, HMRC or local authorities). However, we will work to reduce the number of redundancies as far as possible, given the time available to us to plan and complete the transition to universal credit by 2017. I expect survey results to be available from local authorities by the end of the year and hope to be able to provide more details of the transition plan in the new year.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to assess claims for jobseeker's allowance was in the latest period for which figures are available. [83919]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus monitors the average time taken to process new claims via internal measurement indicators using an average actual clearance time (AACT) for jobseeker's allowance (JSA).

AACT measures the average number of working days we take to process new claims. It does not mean that all claims for that benefit should be processed within that time, as it is an average. We do expect some claims to take longer, particularly if the customer's circumstances are complex or there is a delay in the customer returning information required to enable us to process their claim.

AACT is calculated from our benefit processing system and is a result of taking all the claim volumes processed within any given month against the total number of days each claim has taken to process. The system conducts a simple division calculation using these data sets to provide us with the average actual clearance time (AACT).

For JSA, the start date is either the date the customer first contacted Jobcentre Plus or the customers first day of unemployment, whichever is the later. The end date is the date a formal decision is made on the claim and a notification is issued to the customer on entitlement.

The AACT performance for the latest available month, along with the year to date position is shown in the following table:

Days

	October 2011	*Year to date*
JSA	9.1	9.5

Source:
Management Information System Programme (MISP) November 2011

The data are collected from Management Information System Programme (MISP). MISP is the departmental performance management, data capture and reporting tool. The statistics presented here have not been subject to the rigorous quality assurance processes that are used for official statistics and as a result they should be used with a degree of caution.

Social Justice Directorate

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of staff of his Department who will work in the Social Justice Directorate in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [85295]

Chris Grayling: The Strategy Group, which the Social Justice Directorate is part of, is operating a flexible resourcing approach. This means that the headcount across the Strategy Group will be regularly reviewed to ensure it is deployed against organisational priorities.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to reduce the number of people who are penalised for mistakes on their benefit applications. [85329]

Chris Grayling: There is no measure to penalise those who make mistakes on their benefit applications.

The Government have made provision in the Welfare Reform Bill, which is currently before Parliament, to introduce a civil penalty to deter individuals from negligent behaviour in future and increase their personal responsibility for keeping claims correct. In the long term we expect the number of penalties imposed to reduce as a result of encouraging a positive change in claimant behaviour.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how he will ensure that the expertise of local authority benefit fraud staff is not lost when the Single Fraud Investigation Service is established. [85328]

Chris Grayling: The new Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS) will be formed by consolidating the benefit and tax credit fraud investigation teams across DWP, local authorities and HMRC, which will enable them to undertake a single investigation for the first time. This will be a much better service and a much more efficient way of using investigative resources, and ensure the expertise that currently exists across all these areas is not lost.

We recently ran a consultation exercise with local authorities (LAs) to consider four options for local authority staff to become part of SFIS. Of the 285 responses received 76% of LAs agreed with our assessment that the option for local authority staff to remain employed by LAs, but operate under SFIS powers, policies, processes and priorities, was the most suitable option at this time. This will effectively bring local authority investigation staff into SFIS.

Local authorities were informed of the decision to proceed with this option on 1 December. We will continue to work collaboratively with them to co-design an operational structure for SFIS from 2013.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Director of Public Prosecutions will be funded to carry out fraud work with the new Single Fraud Investigation Service. [85330]

Chris Grayling: The DWP has agreed that resources will be transferred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to undertake fraud prosecutions in the future, including those cases investigated by the Single Fraud Investigation Service.

The transfer of prosecution work from DWP to the CPS is currently in a transition phase, during which details are being worked out. A funding transfer is being discussed as part of that transition.

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 729W, on universal credit, what proportion of the funds allocated to the implementation of universal credit will be spent on *(a)* IT development, *(b)* programme management and *(c)* design of the universal credit system and processes in 2011-12. [82366]

Chris Grayling: The Department is currently forecasting to spend £105 million of the budget allocated to the implementation of universal credit in the financial year 2011-12. The majority will be spent on IT development with the balance on programme management and the design of the universal credit system and processes.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the budget allocated to implementation of universal credit will be spent for each purpose in *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14, *(c)* 2014-15 and *(d)* 2015-16. [82389]

Chris Grayling: The 2010 spending review settlement included funding of £2 billion for the period 2011-12 to 2014-15. This is intended to meet all the costs of introducing universal credit, including any increases in benefit expenditure, additional benefit administration costs in the transition period, the costs of IT development and implementation, communications, staff training and programme management.

Expenditure for years beyond 2011-12 is indicative and subject to adjustments as plans for the programme develops.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

10. **Caroline Dinenage:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the priorities for development in Afghanistan. [85126]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Afghanistan development programme, of which Britain is a strong supporter, continues to make progress. The IMF country programme has been restored. This is a renewed commitment to tackling corruption, improving governance and delivering services to ordinary Afghans.

14. **Sarah Newton:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the priorities for development in Afghanistan. [85131]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Afghanistan development programme, of which Britain is a strong supporter, continues to make progress. The IMF country programme has been restored. This is a renewed commitment to tackling corruption, improving governance and delivering services to ordinary Afghans.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency

11. **Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking on funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency in 2012. [85127]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK supports the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to deliver essential services to nearly 5 million Palestinian refugees. We are currently considering further support for schools in Gaza.

Africa

12. **Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of spending by his Department in Africa. [85128]

Mr O'Brien: Our Bilateral Aid Review (BAR), completed in March this year, assessed the effectiveness of our bilateral development spending including in Africa. We have published Operational Plans for our 19 African programmes which set out the results that we will deliver over the spending review period. These plans will be reviewed annually.

DFID's Management Board review on a quarterly basis the extent to which DFID's interventions in Africa are on track; and we have an ongoing programme of evaluation in our country programmes. In addition to these processes I have also visited most of our offices in Africa at least once to help consider and assess their programmes.

Aid Effectiveness

13. **Phil Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on measuring the effectiveness of overseas aid. [85130]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: DFID is leading the international consensus on improving aid effectiveness. We have introduced rigorous independent evaluation of our efforts. Britain is driving change internationally, including through agreements at the Busan High Level Forum last week.

Capita

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each contract. [84830]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not awarded any centrally-let contracts to Capita since May 2010.

To provide information relating to contracts which may have been awarded to Capita by our delegated procurement officers based in overseas locations would incur disproportionate costs.

Conciliation Resources

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has allocated to Conciliation Resources for their work in Abkhazia, Georgia in each financial year since 2008. [84843]

Mr O'Brien: Conciliation Resources have received funds for peace building work in the South Caucasus through the tri-departmental Conflict Pool (Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development) and through the Department for International Development's Governance and Transparency Fund for activities, some of which take place in Abkhazia, Georgia. Funding has been at the following levels since 2008:

2008-09: £363,801;

2009-10: £384,200;

2010-11: £429,172; and

in 2011-12, funding has been approved at £330,315.

The nature of this work, which is active across different regions, does not allow for a precise breakdown for the Abkhazia region only.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department plans to allocate to Conciliation Resources for work in Abkhazia, Georgia in 2012-13. [84844]

Mr O'Brien: Under the Department for International Development's Governance and Transparency Fund, Conciliation Resources receive funding for a project called 'Increasing Government Accountability in Conflict Zones through Public Participation in Policymaking'. Some elements of this project take place in Abkhazia, Georgia. For 2012-13, £107,896 has been allocated to the Georgian-Abkhaz component of this project.

The nature of the project, which works across different regions, does not allow for a precise breakdown for the Abkhazia region only.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects have been undertaken by Conciliation Resources with funding from his Department in Abkhazia, Georgia since 2008. [84845]

Mr O'Brien: Conciliation Resources have received funding through the Department for International Development's (DFID) Governance and Transparency fund since April 2008 for a project called 'Increasing Government Accountability in Conflict Zones through Public Participation in Policymaking'. Some elements of this project take place in Abkhazia, Georgia.

Through the Conflict Pool, managed tri-departmentally between the Ministry of Defence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and DFID, Conciliation Resources have received funds since 2008 for a project called 'Building Confidence in Conflict Transformation: the Georgian-Abkhaz Context'. Some elements of this project take place in Abkhazia, Georgia.

These projects focus on building relations among people affected by conflict, and strengthening the ability of local people to resolve their conflict.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the International Climate Fund will be affected by the decision to adjust the the allocation of Official Development Assistance in line with the Office for Budget Responsibility's revised growth forecast. [85191]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The £2.9 billion allocation to the International Climate Fund will not be affected by the announcement in the autumn statement.

International Assistance

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with international aid organisations about the Multilateral Aid Review. [84872]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I wrote last month to all 39 multilateral organisations where Department for International Development (DFID) continues to be part of core funding decisions, outlining priority areas for improvement. The letter also confirmed that to continue to inform robust decisions in DFID core aid funding to multilateral, DFID will update the multilateral aid review (MAR) for all 39 organisations in 2013, focusing on those particular areas for improvement.

DFID is in ongoing discussions with multilateral partners on areas for improvement, and to monitor progress.

Libya: Politics and Government

Mr Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist the development of democracy in Libya. [85129]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK continues to support the Libyan Transitional Government to achieve the Libyan people's ambitions for a peaceful, democratic future. In consultation with the UN and other international partners, we are exploring options to encourage strong political participation in the transition process, in particular by women and youth groups.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced People

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the government of Sri Lanka on land registration in the north and east of Sri Lanka. [85228]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have not had any recent discussions with the Government of Sri Lanka, but the High Commission in Colombo regularly urges the Government of Sri Lanka to resolve land disputes through a fair and accountable process. Land rights are challenging in most post-conflict situations involving internally displaced people or refugees. In Sri Lanka, the system of land distribution and multiple displacements of different groups and individuals over many years have resulted in many issues over land, including competing claims on the same land.

TREASURY

Capita: Contracts

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each contract. [84828]

Miss Chloe Smith: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent Central (Tristram Hunt), on 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1083W.

Child Benefit

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of the funding he has allocated to administering new arrangements for higher rate taxpayer families in receipt of child benefit will be allocated to new PAYE disclosure systems; [79735]

(2) by what means higher rate taxpayers with a child benefit recipient in their household will be able to disclose their circumstances if their only existing contact with HM Revenue and Customs is through PAYE; [79736]

(3) if he will estimate the number of higher rate taxpayers who will be required to declare a child benefit recipient in their household who *(a)* do not and *(b)* do complete a tax return; [79737]

(4) when he expects HM Revenue and Customs Real Time Information IT system to be capable of administering his proposals for taxation of higher rate taxpayer household child benefit recipients; and if he will make a statement. [79738]

Mr Gauke: The preliminary indicative estimate for delivering the change to child benefit announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on 4 October 2010 is £130 million over the four-year spending review period. This figure covers the changes required to existing IT systems and other administrative costs, such as staffing and communications. Of the 1.5 million higher rate taxpayers affected, HMRC estimate that approximately

700,000 currently complete a tax return and 800,000 do not currently complete a tax return. The policy will be administered through the tax system using existing systems and processes.

Defence: Procurement

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his announcements on procurement in the Autumn Statement constitute a third phase of the Growth Review; and whether the defence industry will be involved. [85211]

Danny Alexander: The procurement policy measures set out in the autumn statement were a product of phase two of the Growth Review. No decisions have been taken on the next phase of the Growth Review.

Emergencies

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff work on the financial services workstream of the Capabilities programme; and what the staffing level was in each of the last 10 quarters. [79517]

Mr Hoban: Work on the financial services workstream of the National Resilience Capabilities programme is carried out by staff as part of a broader portfolio of work concerning finance sector resilience. It is not possible to provide a specific full-time equivalent figure for the Capabilities programme aspect of that work for this or previous years.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who the lead Minister in his Department is for the financial services workstream of the Capabilities programme. [79518]

Mr Hoban: I am the lead Minister for the financial services workstream of the National Resilience Capabilities programme.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the budget was for the financial services workstream of the Capabilities programme in each year since 2005; and what the budget will be during the comprehensive spending review period. [79519]

Mr Hoban: Work on the financial services workstream of the National Resilience Capabilities programme has been carried out as part of a broader portfolio of work concerning finance sector resilience. A specific budgetary allocation has not been provided for this workstream.

Employment

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate how many new jobs will need to be created to keep pace with population growth in each of the next 10 years. [84818]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) released the official forecast for UK whole economy employment to the first quarter of 2017 as part of the November 2011 "Economic and Fiscal Outlook".

The OBR expects UK population aged 16 and above to rise by 1.8 million, or around 3.5%, between the start of 2011 and the start of 2017.

Over the same period, total employment is forecast to increase at a similar pace (around 3.5%), from 29.2 million to 30.2 million.

As a result, the OBR forecasts that the 16+ employment rate (number of people in employment among those aged 16 and above) will remain broadly unchanged at around 58.5 over the period.

The Government are taking steps to support private sector job creation and reduce unemployment:

Reducing red tape and facilitating access to finance for small and medium sized enterprises through credit easing, helping businesses to grow and take on new workers;

Implementing reforms to help people find work including specific support for young people through the Youth Contract.

Enterprise Investment Scheme: Capital Gains Tax

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual cost of capital gains tax liabilities which are deferred by reinvesting the capital gains in the Enterprise Investment Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [84933]

Miss Chloe Smith: The capital gains tax deferral relief for 2009-10 and 2010-11 cost an average of £45 million a year.

EU Grants and Loans

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had on the availability of match funding for European Regional Development Fund grants. [84539]

Danny Alexander: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), has not had any formal discussions on the availability of match funding for European Regional Development Fund grants.

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills has lead responsibility for EU Structural Funds policy overall. The Department for Communities and Local Government is the Managing Authority for European Regional Development Funding.

Financial Services: Taxation

Hazel Blears: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total tax revenue raised from the financial services sector was in each year since 2008-09. [84901]

Mr Hoban: Tax receipts from the financial services sector are available for corporation tax, PAYE income tax and class 1 national insurance contributions (NICs), value added tax (VAT), bank payroll tax (BPT) and insurance premium tax (IPT).

Corporation tax net receipts for the financial services sector can be found in Table 11.1 A on the HMRC National Statistics website available at the following internet address. This table includes figures for the financial services sector for financial years from 2000-01. The sectors are defined by HMRC's summary trade classifications:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11-1a.pdf

Total PAYE income tax and class 1 NICs received by HMRC in respect of employee and employer liabilities combined for the financial sector are shown in the accompanying table for 2008-09 to 2010-11.

For PAYE, the financial intermediation sector, defined by the Office for National Statistics' Standard Industrial Classification 2003, is used.

Total receipts for PAYE income tax and class 1 NICs in respect of employee and employer liabilities combined from financial intermediation sector (2008-09 to 2010-11 years from May to April)

	Receipts (£ billion)
2008-09	22.9
2009-10	24.5
2010-11	26.5

Note:
PAYE IT and NICs class 1 figures are slightly incomplete in that some late payments are omitted. These late payments represent about 1% of the total, and do so fairly consistently from year to year, so comparisons between years are not significantly affected.

The amount of Home VAT declared on traders' returns is published by trade group in table 2.3 of HMRCs latest VAT factsheet. This can be accessed at the following location on the internet:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factvat

The above figures do not include estimates of irrecoverable input VAT borne by the financial sector, robust estimates of which are not currently available, but which are significantly larger than the VAT collected from the sector itself.

A bank payroll tax was levied on the bonuses awarded by banks and building societies in the financial year 2009-10 after 8 December 2009. The net yield raised by the bank payroll tax is estimated to be £2.3 billion, while gross receipts were £3.4 billion. An explanation of the methodology underlying the estimate of net yield can be found in the previous written answer given on 24 November 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA337. In line with guidance from the Office for National Statistics, the yield from the bank payroll tax was allocated to the 2010-11 tax year, as this is the point at which the tax was passed into legislation.

IPT liabilities and receipts can be accessed at the following location on the internet:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullipt

Infrastructure

Helen Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish his criteria for prioritising infrastructure. [85344]

Danny Alexander: Paragraph 2.1 of the "National Infrastructure Plan 2011" sets out the criteria used for selecting the priority infrastructure projects on which the Government will focus efforts to ensure delivery.

The "National Infrastructure Plan 2011" is available on the HM Treasury website at the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/national_infrastructure_plan2011.htm

Infrastructure: Finance

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of funding for the National Infrastructure Plan has been allocated to infrastructure projects in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* England and *(d)* Wales. [84848]

Danny Alexander: The National Infrastructure Plan (NIP) is relevant to investment in reserved areas of infrastructure in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Table 2.3 on page 49 of the Autumn Statement contains the full list of new infrastructure spending. This includes UK-wide projects such as mobile network coverage and urban broadband. In Scotland this also includes carriages for the Caledonian sleeper train.

The Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive are responsible for planning and prioritising infrastructure investment in areas that are devolved. Where policy is devolved, as noted in Table 2.3 of the Autumn statement, the Administrations receive Barnett consequentials on comparable additional infrastructure spending of UK Departments in the normal way.

International Monetary Fund

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the UK has received as a return on funds made available to the International Monetary Fund in each of the last 10 years. [84880]

Mr Hoban: The interest paid to the UK on a portion of the quota subscription, known as the reserve tranche position (RTP), is calculated by the special drawing right (SDR) interest rate. SDR 700 million (£695 million) of the RTP is unremunerated, reflecting the element of the UK's quota that was made available to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before 1 April 1978 in gold. The UK does not receive any interest on this portion.

The SDR interest rate is based on a weighted average of representative interest rates on short-term debt in the money markets of the SDR basket currencies. The rates used by the IMF to pay interest are explained on the IMF's website:

http://www.imf.org/external/np/tre/sdr/burden/2011/022811.htm

The interest received on the UK's RTP in the last 10 years is set out in the following table. This information is published annually in the Exchange Equalisation Accounts.

	Interest received on the UK's RTP (£)
2000-01	98
2001-02	75
2002-03	63
2003-04	57
2004-05	46
2005-06	34
2006-07	13
2007-08	1
2008-09	4
2009-10	4
2010-11	8

Planning: Expenditure

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate his Department has made of the financial costs of the planning system to the UK economy; and if he will make a statement. [84868]

Miss Chloe Smith: Ministers have considered independent analyses and stakeholder views of costs associated with the planning system. In a report for the Department for Communities and Local Government, Professor Ball of the university of Reading suggested that the transaction costs of development control for major residential development alone may be up to £3 billion a year. The report is available online at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/507390/pdf/1436960.pdf

In very recent evidence to the DCLG Select Committee, Professor Ball advised that the actual costs are likely to be higher than this, which could push total transaction costs for residential development from £3 billion to over £4 billion. This does not include costs for commercial developments.

Public Expenditure: Infrastructure

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of providing additional public infrastructure at present standards for additional UK residents projected for 2033. [84819]

Danny Alexander: The independent Office for Budget Responsibility published its latest 'Fiscal sustainability report' in July 2011. This sets out long-term projections for the effect of demographic pressures on the public finances. The report is available at the following link:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/category/topics/long-term-sustainability/

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much Barnett consequential funding will be paid for investment in infrastructure projects. [85029]

Danny Alexander: As part of the autumn statement announcement, the devolved Administrations will receive additional Capital DEL funding to support Infrastructure investment over four years. Please see following table.

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*£million 2014-15*
Scotland	50	68	142	172
Wales	0	39	81	97
Northern Ireland	0	24	53	58

Public Sector: Expenditure

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether public sector spending will be greater than tax receipts in each year to 2015. [84927]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* Public sector spending will be greater than current receipts in each year to 2015.

Public Sector: Pensions

Claire Perry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of public sector workers of each gender *(a)* earning less than £15,000 per year who will see no increase in pension contribution rates and *(b)* earning between £15,000 and £21,000 per year who will see their increase in pension contribution rates capped at 0.6 per cent. [75683]

Danny Alexander: I set out in my written ministerial statement to Parliament on 19 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 92-94WS, that there should be no increase in employee pension contributions for those earning less that £15,000 and no more than a 1.5% increase in total by 2014-15 for those earning up to £21,000. This amounts to a 0.6% increase in 2012-13 on a pro-rata basis.

The following table shows the estimated gender distribution of public service workers earning on a full time equivalent basis *(a)* less than £15,000, and *(b)* between £15,000 and £21,000. The results are based on the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings published by the Office for National Statistics.

	Female	*Percentage Male*
Total public service	67.1	32.9
Earning less than £15,000	86.9	13.1
Earning between £15,000 and £21,000	77.7	22.3

Stamp Duties: Westminster

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much stamp duty land tax has been paid in respect of properties purchased in One Hyde Park, London, in each quarter from 2009 to 2011. [84932]

Miss Chloe Smith: All information held by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs is subject through legislation to a strict duty of confidentiality. Disclosure of information in relation to specific transactions as requested would breach this duty.

Tax Collection

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in cases where HM Revenue and Customs has issued incorrect tax codes to individuals, it *(a)* charges those individuals interest and *(b)* otherwise penalises them financially for not paying their tax bills on time; and if he will make a statement. [79393]

Mr Gauke: Most people pay the right amount of tax through the PAYE system. However, the PAYE tax code represents an estimate of liability, and in a minority of cases therefore, an adjustment is needed after the end of the year to ensure that people pay the right amount. In particular, tax codes will not always reflect changes in an individual's circumstances during the tax year. At the end of the tax year HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) checks whether each individual has paid the correct amount of tax due.

The reconciliation process for 2010-11 commenced in July 2011. Where possible, HMRC will collect underpayments of less than £3,000 during 2012-13 by making an adjustment in the tax code so that the amount due is recovered from the taxpayer's salary over the course of the tax year. Where this is likely to cause

financial difficulty, HMRC may be able to spread the payments over two or three years. No interest or penalties are charged in these cases.

Where the underpayment is £3,000 or over or cannot be collected by an adjustment in a future tax code, for example because the individual may no longer be in receipt of PAYE income, HMRC will ask for a voluntary payment. Interest will not be charged providing taxpayers engage with HMRC and agree to pay their underpayment. Where payment is not made voluntarily it is requested through Self Assessment where interest and penalties may be charged on payments made late.

People who face financial difficulty in paying tax underpaid will be treated sympathetically and should contact HMRC immediately. Further information and advice is available on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/p800/paye-tax-calcs.htm

Taxation: Nuclear Power

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the possible introduction of a tax on the revenue generated by nuclear power stations. [85388]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers hold regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a wide range of issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

DEFENCE

Eurofighter Typhoon

Lorraine Fullbrook: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of recent export campaigns for the Eurofighter Typhoon; and if he will make a statement. [80072]

Peter Luff: There remains strong interest in Typhoon. It has been selected by India to participate in the final phase of its medium multi-role combat aircraft competition. It is also competing in a number of other important markets, including Japan, Malaysia, Qatar, and Switzerland.

I expect an increase in interest in Typhoon following its highly successful air defence and ground attack roles in Libya, in which it consistently demonstrated exceptional levels of reliability, performance, accuracy, and overall cost-effectiveness.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding he has allocated to Blue Force Tracking and similar systems; and if he will make a statement. [72965]

Peter Luff: Combat Identification (CID) is not a simple task in the complex environments in which our armed forces operate. It is a holistic effort that involves tactics, training and techniques as well as investment in equipment. A large number of equipment projects contribute indirectly to improvements in our overall CID capability. However, specific capabilities include:

The Bowman Tactical Communication System, with support funding of around £180 million until 2013. Future capability will be provided through the Land Environment Tactical CIS project at an approximate cost of £2.5 billion.

Helicopter and ground asset tracking systems for Afghanistan, at an annual cost of £3.5 million paid for from the Reserve.

Casualty Locating Beacon (CLB), procured under Urgent Operational Requirement timelines at a cost of £60 million.

Identification Friend or Foe (IFF), a system of transponders that are directly integrated into individual platforms enabling them to be identified within the battlefield environment. Funding has been allocated to develop a successor IFF system.

Small boat communications system (XERES), which provides a combat identification capability for which we have allocated around £400,000 of funding. The current capability will be replaced with a Bowman tactical communication system solution from 2014.

Where detailed costs have not been provided this is because the main investment decision has yet to be made and disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the menu is for soldiers serving in Afghanistan on Christmas day; and what the estimated cost is of each meal. [85035]

Mr Robathan: On Christmas day in Afghanistan, troops and support staff in locations where chefs are present and the security situation allows will be served a full English breakfast, traditional turkey lunch with trimmings, and a buffet supper. Other meal options will also be available for those with special dietary requirements.

The estimated cost of the troops' meals for the day is £5.50, however this is the cost of the raw ingredients only, and as such, it is difficult to break this down into the three meals. We estimate that the traditional turkey lunch costs approximately £2.75.

Armed Forces: Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his Department's policy is on mandatory drug tests for *(a)* officials and *(b)* service personnel; [82970]

(2) how many members of his Department have been disciplined following a drug offence in the last 12 months. [83131]

Mr Robathan: The armed forces do not tolerate the taking of illegal drugs within their ranks, as it is incompatible with military service and reduces operational effectiveness. All service personnel are subject to random compulsory drug testing. Providing a positive result, indicating the presence of illegal substances, will almost certainly result in an administrative discharge. These measures are well known and are a condition of service.

For civil servants, random mandatory testing is carried out in respect of officials employed in safety critical posts, such as armed police officers or the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. In addition, where there is due cause to suspect an officer is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, a test can be conducted. Failure is considered a major disciplinary offence and can result in dismissal.

There were fewer than 15 members of the armed forces convicted by courts-martial in the last 12 months for drugs related offences, such as possession or intent to supply illegal drugs, under service law. In addition

there were some 104,600 compulsory drug tests conducted. There were in the region of 500 members of the armed forces whose test showed traces of illegal substances. Almost all have been, or can expect to be, administratively discharged. Retention will only be considered in very exceptional, and isolated, circumstances. Records indicate that no civil servant was disciplined for a drugs-related offence.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel returning from Germany he expects to be based within 40 miles of their families' living quarters. [84976]

Nick Harvey: It is too early to be specific, but I expect that the vast majority of service personnel will be based well within 40 miles of their living accommodation.

Tri-Service regulations state that service personnel are entitled to service family accommodation (SFA) at, or within a 10-mile radius, of their permanent duty station. In areas where there are pressures on SFA, this may be extended up to a 20-mile radius with the permission of their Service Command. In exceptional cases this distance can be further extended. In London, personnel are usually entitled to SFA within 90 minutes travel time using public transport. Exceptional arrangements can be made, for instance, for reasons of personal choice.

Some personnel relocated to Dalton Barracks, Abingdon, are being housed beyond the 20-mile radius. Single soldiers will move into barracks in Bicester and families will move predominantly to Arborfield. This is exceptional.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* RAF personnel have been asked to vacate their service accommodation in advance of deployment to Afghanistan in the last year for which figures are available; [84979]

(2) how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* RAF personnel have been asked to vacate their service accommodation in advance of deployment overseas in the last year for which figures are available. [84982]

Mr Robathan: No service families are asked to vacate their service family accommodation in advance of, or because of, an operational deployment, and therefore will remain in their homes during the deployment.

Unless posted to a new location after deployment personnel should expect to return to their single living accommodation after their deployment.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* closest, *(b)* furthest and *(c)* average distance between barracks and service family accommodation at (i) Kinloss and (ii) Cottesmore barracks; [84988]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* closest, *(b)* furthest and *(c)* average distance between service family accommodation and barracks. [84989]

Mr Robathan: No estimate has been made. However, personnel are usually allocated Service Family Accommodation (SFA) at, or within, a ten mile radius of their permanent duty station, and this is the case at Kinloss and Cottesmore. In areas where there are pressures on SFA, this may be extended up to a twenty-mile radius with the permission of the appropriate service command and in exceptional cases, special dispensation may be granted to accommodate personnel beyond this limit.

Personnel may also request temporarily surplus SFA at other locations for reasons of personal choice.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list each army accommodation site in the UK. [84994]

Mr Robathan: The term 'army accommodation site' is not one used by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and therefore no such list is held.

However, Annex A of the Defence Estate Development Plan 2009 contains details of Army barracks and other MOD establishments in the UK and overseas. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria his Department uses to determine the maximum rent which is paid for accommodation for *(a)* civilian and *(b)* service staff. [85160]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* The majority of single living accommodation and some service family accommodation (SFA) is owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and therefore no rent is paid to any other landlord. The majority of SFA in England and Wales is owned by Annington Homes Ltd and the MOD pays 42% of the agreed market rent. Where SFA and substitute service accommodation is rented from other providers, the MOD may pay up to the current market rent for the property.

Although civilian personnel are responsible for their own private accommodation, where they are temporarily transferred to a location outside of the reasonable daily travel of their main home, they may stay in temporary private accommodation. This accommodation is sourced through a specialist relocation contractor who will find accommodation that meets the Department's criteria. In areas which offer temporary accommodation at a premium levels, the set criteria is supplemented with guidance on maximum rental limits.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the 20 most expensive substitute civilian staff accommodation properties rented out were in the last 12 months for which figures are available; what the postal district was of each such property; and how many occupants there were in each. [85161]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not recognise the term 'substitute civilian staff accommodation' and therefore the requested information is not held.

To make best use of temporarily surplus service accommodation, eligible civilian personnel may be allowed to occupy it on a non-entitled basis, but we do not fund substitute service accommodation for civilian use.

However, MOD civilian employees who are relocated to a location that is outside of reasonable travelling distance either as a result of a permanent or temporary

posting are entitled to reimbursement of additional and reasonable costs incurred with occupying private temporary accommodation they are responsible for arranging.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the 50 most expensive *(a)* substitute service family accommodation and *(b)* substitute service single accommodation properties rented out were in the last 12 months for which figures are available; what the postal district was of each such property; and how many occupants there were in each. [85162]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* Substitute service family accommodation (SSFA) and substitute service single accommodation (SSSA) properties may be rented to accommodate service families and single serving personnel respectively when no suitable Ministry of Defence accommodation is available to entitlement at or close to the duty station. Substitute accommodation is only used as a last resort.

The 50 most expensive SSFA properties rented in the last 12 months are shown in the following table.

Postal district	*Rent (£ pcm)*
London SW	4,590
London NW	4,333
London SW	4,248
London SW	4,248
London SW	4,117
London NW	4,099
London W	4,038
London NW	4,017
London SW	3,956
Twickenham	3,930
London S W	3,922
London SW	3,886
London SE	3,886
London SW	3,867
London SW	3,756
London NW	3,713
London NW	3,640
Slough	3,605
London W	3,575
St Albans	3,530
London W	3,467
Harrow	3,300
London E	3,299
Slough	3,250
Hemel Hempstead	3,212
London SW	3,186
Hemel Hempstead	3,159
Hemel Hempstead	3,150
London SW	3,132
Slough	3,102
Hemel Hempstead	3,059
Harrow	3,023
Southampton	3,000
Hemel Hempstead	2,850
London E	2,847
London SW	2,847
Harrow	2,843
Kingston Upon Thames	2,830
Hemel Hempstead	2,800
Hemel Hempstead	2,800
Kingston Upon Thames	2,775
Oxfordshire	2,769
Hemel Hempstead	2,769
Slough	2,767
London NW	2,743
Slough	2,738
Hemel Hempstead	2,738
Hemel Hempstead	2,725
Slough	2,725
London W	2,720

The 50 most expensive SSSA properties rented in the last 12 months are shown in the following table. More than one service person may occupy an SSSA property.

Postal district	*Number of occupants*	*Rent (£ pcm)*
London SE	3	2,600
London SW	2	2,383
London SW	2	2,330
London W	2	2,310
London SW	2	2,305
London SW	2	2,275
London SW	2	2,240
London SW	2	2,240
London SW	2	2,240
London SW	2	2,166
London SW	2	2,100
Portsmouth	4	1,800
London SW	2	1,793
London SW	1	1,785
London SW	2	1,742
London E	2	1,733
London SW	2	1,725
London W	1	1,720
London SW	2	1,680
London SW	1	1,677
London SW	2	1,668
London SW	2	1,655
London SW	2	1,655
Oxfordshire	3	1,650
London E	2	1,633
London SE	2	1,630
London NW	2	1,630
London E	2	1,611
London SW	2	1,600
Twickenham	1	1,600
London W	1	1,599
London E	2	1,580
London N	2	1,575
London N	2	1,570
London W	2	1,565
London E	2	1,550
London E	2	1,550
London E	2	1,550
London N	2	1,550
London SW	1	1,547
London NW	1	1,547
London W	1	1,547
Harrow	2	1,540
London SE	2	1,530
London SW	1	1,530

Postal district	Number of occupants	Rent (£ pcm)
London SW	2	1,530
London SW	1	1,516
London SW	1	1,503
London SW	1	1,503
London NE	3	1,500

Capita

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each such contract. [84745]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has awarded six contracts to Capita or its associated companies since May 2010, with a total value of just over £13 million. The six contracts cover provision of technical support, medical services, and communication and information systems. These contracts fall within the following value ranges:

Contract value banding	Number of contracts
£5 million to £10 million	2
£100,000 to £250,000	3
Under £100,000	1
Total contracts	6

This information was taken from the MOD's defence business service finance contracts database as at 1 December 2011.

Christmas: Expenditure

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies plan to spend on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) postage, (iii) parties and (iv) decorations in 2011; [84610]

(2) how much his Department *(a)* has spent and *(b)* plans to spend on Christmas (i) trees, (ii) decorations and (iii) parties in 2011. [84615]

Mr Robathan: This response covers the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and its agencies, but excludes trading funds which are outside the MOD's departmental boundary for financial reporting purposes.

The Chief of Defence Staff plans to spend this year £75 on Christmas cards, and £54 on postage. The Chief of the Defence Staff has an authorised one-off dispensation to purchase and send Christmas cards on behalf of the armed forces to his international opposite numbers at public expense.

There are no plans to spend any money for Christmas trees, decorations or parties at the MOD main building.

The Department's rules on the use of public money rule out expenditure on Christmas trees, decorations and parties, with the exception of expenditure which is covered by the Family Welfare Grant. This grant supports activities that enhance the morale of families of service personnel who are enduring the stress of being separated from their loved ones serving in a dangerous operational theatre.

The Land Forces Top Level Budget has identified planned expenditure of £80 on Christmas trees, £1,000 on decorations, and £14,920 on parties. These will be funded from the Family Welfare Grant and are for the families of service personnel deployed on operations during the festive period. The majority of this expenditure will be for the families of units from 20 Armoured Brigade, currently serving in Afghanistan.

Procurement

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the Yellow Book costs to his Department following the redundancies announced by BAE Systems. [85019]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 5 December 2011]*: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has not yet entered into negotiations with BAE Systems about the potential liabilities to the MOD under the Yellow Book rules as a result of their recently announced rationalisation programme. Any figures discussed or agreed, however, would be commercial in confidence.

Consultants

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Upper Bann of 21 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1167W, on consultants, how many contracts of more than £20,000 his Department has awarded to external consultants since July 2010; what the details of each such contract were; and how many such proposals required approval from the Efficiency and Reform Group. [76998]

Peter Luff: Between 1 August 2010 and 31 August 2011 the Ministry of Defence (MOD) placed 29 contracts for management consultancy valued at over £20,000, the combined value of which was £15.2 million. In accordance with the Efficiency Reform Group (ERG) approvals process, six of those contracts required ERG approval before being granted. During the financial year 2009-10, the MOD spent a total of £79 million on management consultancy, which fell to £26 million during the financial year 2010-11. These figures are inclusive of expenditure on contracts placed in previous years.

The details of the contracts and the ERG approvals sought in accordance with the agreed process are detailed in the following table:

Requirement description	Supplier name	ERG Approval at nine month point?	Total approved spend (£)
Defence Acquisition Reform Programme (DARP) Project Management Capability	Atkins Ltd	No < 9 months	218,000
ERP Project—Implementation and Development—Technical Services	Capgemini PLC	No—approved prior to 24 May 2010	60,000

Requirement description	*Supplier name*	*ERG Approval at nine month point?*	*Total approved spend (£)*
Legal Services	Davitt Jones	Exempt Legal Council	150,000
SDSR Contract re-negotiation	Deloitte	No < Nine months	120,000
External Assistance for Defence Infrastructure Transformation Programme	Deloitte	Yes	816,000
Provision of training needs analysis in support Unit Welfare Workers	Explosive Learning Solutions	No—approved prior to 24 May 2010	43,500
TUPE advice to the RPP Project	Hewitt, Bacon and Woodrow	No—approved prior to 24 May 2010	60,000
AHL Strategic Advice and Support	KPMG	No < Nine months	110,782
Flight Simulation and Synthetic Trainers—PUMA	KPMG, Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP	No < Nine months	160,000
MIB—Programme Office Manager	LA International	No—approved prior to 24 May 2010	49,400
AIS-PM LAMBTON	LA International	No—approved prior to 24 May 2010	27,030
Corporate HQ—CDM EPP Phase 1	LEK Consulting Ltd	No < Nine months	86,900
Project Phoenix	Mills and Reeve	No—approved prior to 24 May 2010	59,850
Joint Suppy Chain Services	PWC	No < nine months	26,309
Carry out a soft issues assessment of the six bidders competing for new ISP contracts	Quatrosystem Ltd	No < nine months	103,177
Z9A2085Y10—Structural Engineer Surveys of Hangers at West Freugh as a potential site to store the 2nd line equipment of 19 Brigade	Royal Haskoning	No	28,000
To undertake work for the new operating model for DIO	Transcend	No—approved prior to 24 May 2010	48,500
ERP Project— Implementation and Development—Project Team Costs—Cutover Management	Worldwide Technology UK Ltd	Yes	168,006
DNPS HR Research Attitude Survey 2010-2012	Harris Interactive Ltd	No < nine months	170,000
Cost Assurance and Analysis Service (CASS) Development Programme—Cost Forecasting	KPMG LLP	Yes	12,000,000
Assessment of the Admiralty Interview Board	TMP (UK) Ltd	No < nine months	27,150
Development of Tactical Doctrine for Firearms Operations at National Infrastructure Sites	Aldersgate Partners LLP	No < nine months	76,800
Heath needs Audit for Nuclear Test Veterans	Miles and Green Associates Ltd	Yes	74,000
Provision of a Cultural Advisor to the Task Force in Helmand/Afghanistan	InterCultures Ltd	No—UOR	49,770
Review of RN Selection	Kenexa	No < nine months	27,000
NATO Capability Culture Scoping Study	Cranfield University	No—NATO	48,414
Field Army Stock Efficiency	Systems Consultants Services Ltd	Yes	100,000
Future Defence Storage and Distribution programme	Ernst and Young	Yes	222,000
The application of NATO software systems for sustainability Planning	Analix Ltd	No—NATO	59,550
Total value of the 29 contracts awarded to external consultants from 1 July 2010 to 31 August 2011			15,190,138

Please note: The data above do not include any contacts placed before 1 July 2010 or contracts which are awaiting ERG approval nor those contracts which are on hold.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department has awarded to management consultants *(a)* since the publication of the Strategic Defence and Security Review and *(b)* in 2010-11; and what the total value is of those contracts. [82135]

Peter Luff: Between 19 October 2010 and 31 October 2011, 72 contracts with a total value of £9.931 million were awarded to companies providing services to the Ministry of Defence under the Government Procurement Services definition of management consultancy. During the financial year (FY) 2010-11 the total number of contracts awarded was 159, with a total value of £23.308 million. During FY 2009-10, based on the data held centrally, the number of contracts awarded was 288, with a total value of £63.799 million.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which management consultancies provided services to his Department during the last 12 months. [82136]

Peter Luff: Since 1 October 2010, the following firms have provided services to the Ministry of Defence, under the Government Procurement Services definition of management consultancy. This relates to contracts with a value over £20,000. We do not hold data centrally on contracts below £20,000 in value and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Hewitt Associates, Hewitt Bacon & Woodrow, LA International, Intercultures Ltd, Atkins Ltd, Harris Interactive Ltd, TMP(UK) Ltd, Cranfield University,

Systems Consultants Services Ltd, Explosive Learning Solutions, PWC, Quatrosystem Ltd, Transcend, KPMG, Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP, Kenexa, LEK Consulting Ltd, Deloitte, Davitt Jones, Denton Wilde Sapte, Pinsent Masons, KPMG, Ernst & Young, Burges Salmon LLP, Simmons & Simmons.

Total spend on management consultancy in the financial year 2010-11 was £26 million, compared to £79 million for financial year 2009-10.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85064]

Mr Robathan: The information requested, broken down by each of the last six months, is as follows:

Month (2011)	*Number of written questions for answer on a named received*	*Number answered substantively within five working days*	*Percentage*
June	76	65	86
July	102	94	92
August	0	n/a	n/a
September	75	58	77
October	107	70	65
November	137	94	69
Total	497	381	77

The Government are committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Ex-servicemen: Employment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department has spent on Career Transition Partnership in each year since it was established; [84068]

(2) how much his Department has spent on the Employment Support Programme in each year since its creation; [84071]

(3) how much his Department spent on the full resettlement programme in each year since its creation. [84992]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* The following table provides information on the costs attributed to the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) since 1 April 1998. We do not maintain records of the costs for individual resettlement programmes, as this is a matter for the CTP.

Financial year	*Costs (£ million)*
1998-99	2.166
1999-2000	5.744
2000-01	6.222
2001-02	6.368
2002-03	6.313
2003-04	6.518
2004-05	7.139
2005-06	8.236
2006-07	8.458
2007-08	9.028
2008-09	8.371
2009-10	7.143
2010-11	8.089

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) in which sectors of the economy veterans find careers once they have left the armed forces; [84069]

(2) in which main sectors armed forces veterans have found careers through the *(a)* full resettlement service and *(b)* Employment Support programme since its creation. [84991]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 812W, to the hon. Member for West Ham (Lyn Brown).

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces veterans have been through the Employment Support programme in each year since its creation. [84990]

Mr Robathan: The following table provides information on the number of service leavers who have accessed the services of the Career Transition Partnership Employment Support programme for each financial year since 2005.

Financial year	*Number of early service leavers accessing CTP*[1]
2005-06	2,900
2006-07	3,000
2007-08	3,500
2008-09	3,300
2009-10	3,200
2010-11	[2]

[1] All figures rounded to nearest 10.
[2] Not yet available.

Geneva Convention

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 31 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 534W, on the Geneva Convention, how many in-service weapons have not had their legality reviewed under Article 36 in Amended Protocol 1 of the Geneva Convention. [79723]

Nick Harvey: There are more than 1,800 weapons and systems currently in the UK armed forces inventory which were brought into service before the obligation to legally review against Article 36 in Amended Protocol 1 came into force for the UK in 1999. The obligation is not retrospective. Since 1999 all weapons and equipment entering service have been subject to a formal legal weapons review in accordance with Article 36.

Gurkha Resettlement Office

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former Gurkhas registered with the Gurkha Resettlement Office who have settled in the UK since 2009 are between the ages of *(a)* 30 and 39, *(b)* 40 and 49, *(c)* 50 and 59, *(d)* 60 and 69, *(e)* 70 and 79 and *(f)* 80 and 89; and how many widows have registered. [85221]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* The Ministry Of Defence does not monitor the age profile of former Gurkhas who have settled in the UK. The age profile of former Gurkhas registered with the Gurkha Settlement Office in Kathmandu between 5 October 2009 and 25 November 2011 is shown in the following table. The number of widows who have registered in the same period is 499.

Ages	*Number*
30 to 39	3
40 to 49	291
50 to 59	736
60 to 69	1,134
70 to 79	530
80 to 89	54

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Gurkhas have registered with the Gurkha Resettlement Office in Kathmandu since 2009. [85222]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* The number of former Gurkhas registered with the Gurkha Settlement Office in Kathmandu between 5 October 2009 and 25 November 2011 is 2,751.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which local authority areas Gurkha veterans and their dependents have settled since 2009; and how many have settled in each local authority area. [85223]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* This information is not recorded by the Ministry of Defence because there is no requirement to do so. However, we have estimates from Gurkha communities that the main concentrations of Gurkha veterans, excluding dependants, as at 14 June 2011 was as follows:

	Number
Hampshire	4,256
Kent	1,500
London	980
Surrey	687
Berkshire	350
Wiltshire	321

It is not known whether these Gurkha veterans settled in the UK under the 2004 or the 2009 immigration changes.

Gurkhas: Pensions

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the Gurkha veterans who have settled in the UK since May 2009 are classified as *(a)* service pensioners and *(b)* welfare pensioners. [85224]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* No information is held to identify whether Gurkha veterans who have settled in the UK since May 2009 are service or welfare pensioners.

Harrier Aircraft

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the sale price for the Harrier jump jet includes intellectual property rights for their upgrade; [84983]

(2) what methodology his Department used to calculate the sale price for the Harrier jump jet; [84984]

(3) with how many *(a)* private contractors and *(b)* national governments his Department has had discussions on the sale of Harrier jump jets. [84985]

Peter Luff: The UK-owned Harrier aircraft are included in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the USA, Italy and Spain. Given the support arrangements that were set out in the MOU, which requires first refusal to be given to these nations, the UK offered the Harrier aircraft and assets to these nations. A declared intent from the US Government to purchase the majority of Harrier assets meant that sale to commercial enterprises was not explored. Interest in the Harrier aircraft was received from two non-MOU countries but detailed discussions did not take place.

The value of the sale was established by negotiation following market analysis taking into consideration the net book value of the assets. Further allowance was made for the UK not providing any forms of warranty, guarantee or indemnity for the state, condition, accuracy, fitness for purpose, quality or standard of any of the Harrier assets or documentation.

The sale price of Harrier assets to the US Government did not include Intellectual Property Rights.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long a delay in delivery has been caused by ordering C rather than B variant joint combat aircraft. [83809]

Peter Luff: There has been no delay to the delivery of our operational test and evaluation aircraft and we will receive our first UK aircraft in May 2012.

Due to the incremental procurement strategy we are yet to place orders for production aircraft.

Navy

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what period elapsed between the initial gate decision and full operational capability in respect of each Royal Navy *(a)* surface vessel and *(b)* submarine commissioned in the last 10 years. [84577]

Peter Luff: Initial gate approvals and declaration of full operating capability are given on a class basis rather than by individual vessel and the relevant dates are listed in the following table. Initial gate is approval to undertake development and evaluation of options within an assessment phase to determine which best meets the requirement. Full operating capability is when the full

planned military capability is delivered, which is usually some time after the last ship in the class has been commissioned. The concept of initial gate was introduced in 1998 following the strategic defence review, so those classes of vessel which had been approved before then did not undergo such a process. The information provided is for each of the classes of Royal Naval surface vessel and submarine for which one or more vessels has been commissioned within the period 1 December 2001 to 30 November 2011.

Vessel class	*Date of initial gate*	*Date of full operating capability for class*
Astute Class submarines[1]	n/a	[5]
Type 45 destroyers[2]	n/a	[5]
Type 23 frigates[1]	n/a	2002
River Class[3]	n/a	2004
HMS Clyde[4]	2003	2007
HMS Protector[4]	2010	2011
HMS Albion/ Bulwark[1]	n/a	2004
Sandown Class[1]	n/a	2001
HMS Echo/ Enterprise	1999	2004

[1] The Department did not have an initial gate approval point when these programmes were initiated. For Type 23 the first frigate (HMS Norfolk) was laid down in 1985 and the last frigate (HMS St Albans) was commissioned in 2002. For the Astute programme, the Department considers the equivalent date to be 1991, and for HMS Albion/Bulwark 1991 and for the Sandown Class 1994.
[2] The Type 45 programme was initially part of the Common New Generation Frigate (CNGF) project with France and Italy. The Type 45 programme was established when the UK withdrew from the CNGF element of the tripartite collaborative project. The Type 45 programme therefore went straight to main gate in August 2000.
[3] An initial gate decision was not made for the River Class as the vessels were proposed by the shipbuilder Vosper Thorneycroft UK through an unsolicited bid. The Department placed a contract for the lease and support of the River Class in 2001.
[4] HMS Clyde and Protector are non-complex vessels acquired through commercial lease arrangements, thus the period between initial gate and full operational capability is much shorter than for the other projects.
[5] Not yet achieved.

Public Bodies Bill (HL) 2010-12

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his predecessor and *(c)* Ministers in his Department have had with the Royal British Legion on the Public Bodies Bill; [84961]

(2) what discussions he and Ministers in his Department have had with colleagues in the Ministry of Justice on the Public Bodies Bill and the Office of the Chief Coroner. [84384]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has had no recent discussions with ministerial colleagues on the Public Bodies Bill and the office of the Chief Coroner. The Chief Coroner post is entirely a matter for the Ministry of Justice, although we have provided assistance with regard to the impact on military bereaved families and have engaged with both the Ministry of Justice and Cabinet Office on this matter.

The Royal British Legion has made public its position on the Public Bodies Bill on many occasions and has referred to it in contacts with Defence Ministers and officials, but this is not a matter on which the Ministry of Defence takes the lead.

Sea King Helicopters

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely cost of extending the life of the Search and Rescue Sea King helicopters for *(a)* two, *(b)* five and *(c)* 10 years. [84370]

Peter Luff: The following table shows the estimated capital investment necessary to extend the life of the Ministry of Defence's Search and Rescue Sea Kings beyond their planned retirement. This is forecast to commence in 2015 and will conclude by March 2016.

Estimated costs for extending life of SAR Sea Kings beyond 2016

Number of years	*£ million*
Two	20
Five	100
Ten	350

These costs are for extending the life of the airframe only, and do not include the costs for providing aircrew and maintainers, supporting the aircrew training system, including simulators, and providing associated management arrangements, all of which are to be provided by the contractor under arrangements announced by the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), on 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 52-53WS. These costs also exclude the costs of actually operating and flying the aircraft. It should be noted that while Sea King helicopters could be run on, their older design and age means that their capability in terms of time to reach incidents and availability would remain lower than more modern helicopters, regardless of investment.

World War II: Medals

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to encourage former Bevin Boys to apply for the Bevin Boys Veterans Badge. [85372]

Mr Robathan: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is the sponsor of the badge, and the Ministry of Defence issues the badge on their behalf. Full details of the badge, the eligibility criteria and the application process can be found on both the DECC and Veterans UK website.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 8 December 2011

WALES

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) whether food and catering services in her Department plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards; [85852]

(2) what steps the food and catering services in her Department are taking to ensure the country of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85853]

Mr David Jones: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr Bain) on 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 909W.

Newport: Gwent

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 954W, on Newport, Gwent, what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* venue was of each visit to Newport undertaken by (i) her and (ii) the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales since May 2010. [85519]

Mr David Jones: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Purpose	*Venue*	*Minister*
Discuss Ryder Cup preparations	Celtic Manor Resort	Secretary of State
Visit successful Welsh business	JoJo Maman Bebe, Oxwich Road	Secretary of State
Attend Institute of Directors' Autumn Business Leaders' Luncheon	Celtic Manor Resort	Secretary of State
Attend Ryder Cup	Celtic Manor Resort	Secretary of State
Participate in Question Time recording	The Riverfront Theatre	Secretary of State
Attend KPMG Business Lunch	Celtic Manor Resort	Secretary of State
Visit to an voluntary organisation and host Big Society Seminar	RASCAL and YMCA	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85643]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office internal auditors operate to Government Internal Audit Standards.

My Department does not have executive agencies.

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [85709]

Mr Paterson: Corporate risk registers are held by all of the non-departmental public bodies for which my Department is responsible.

Effective risk management is an integral component of the corporate governance arrangements of all of the Northern Ireland Office's sponsored bodies.

PRIME MINISTER

Research

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Prime Minister how many times he has visited a *(a)* university research department or *(b)* commercial centre of research since May 2010. [84448]

The Prime Minister: I have meetings and discussions with a wide range of organisations at a variety of locations around the country, including research centres. For instance, I visited BT's Adastral park on 5 December 2011. A strong competitive science and research base is a crucial part of securing sustainable economic growth and creating jobs of the future.

Festivals and Special Occasions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Prime Minister whether he took part in any events in an official capacity to mark *(a)* St George's day, *(b)* St Patrick's day, *(c)* St David's day and *(d)* St Andrew's day in 2011. [84898]

The Prime Minister: The Government and their bodies support a number of events to signify the importance of these dates, including flying their flags on a number of Government buildings.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will estimate the average level of council tax per capita for *(a)* Eastleigh, *(b)* Amber Valley, *(c)* North Hertfordshire, *(d)* Broadland, *(e)* Stafford, *(f)* Epping Forest, *(g)* Swale, *(h)* Warwick, *(i)* East Hertfordshire, *(j)* St Albans, *(k)* Guildford, *(l)* Cherwell, *(m)* Lancaster, *(n)* Dacorum, *(o)* Maidstone and *(p)* Redcar and Cleveland in each year between 2008-09 and 2011-12; [85373]

(2) if he will estimate the average level of council tax per capita for *(a)* Vale of White Horse, *(b)* Waverley, *(c)* Horsham, *(d)* South Kesteven, *(e)* East Devon, *(f)* Braintree, *(g)* King's Lynn and West Norfolk and *(h)* Tendring in each year between 2008-09 and 2011-12. [85374]

Robert Neill: Figures on average council tax per dwelling and average Band D council tax by local authority can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/

Figures on council tax requirements by local authority can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/revenueexpenditure/

Mid-year population estimates by local authority area are published by the Office for National Statistics:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/population/population-change/population-estimates

Parliamentary Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many parliamentary questions for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day by his Department have remained unanswered for a period of two months since May 2010. [79587]

Robert Neill: 20 (0.5%) of around 3,900 written parliamentary questions answered by the Department in the House of Commons between the 2010 General Election and 31 October 2011 were answered two months or more after their due date for reply. 16 of these were ordinary written questions and four were named day questions.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Gurkhas: Finance

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 430W, on Gurkhas: Aldershot, which local authorities will receive funding to support the integration of retired Gurkhas; how much each local authority will receive; and what methodology will be used to allocate the funding. [85269]

Andrew Stunell: DCLG Ministers and officials have met Gurkha charities and local authorities to understand the needs of local areas with a significant population of Gurkhas and how we might work with a small number of local authorities and Gurkha charities to support wider settlement. My officials have met Gurkha charities and the chief executive of Rushmoor borough council to discuss the impact of the settlement of Gurkhas and their families on the local community.

We have written to the chief executives of local authorities with Gurkha veterans asking for their experience and ideas. When we have received their responses, and following further conversations with Gurkha charities, we will make a decision on how to distribute available funds.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Civil Disorder

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the use of *(a)* the internet and *(b)* mobile telephones in (i) disseminating information about and (ii) encouraging participation in recent public disorder; and if she will make a statement; [69824]

(2) what recent discussions she *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with the operators of mobile telephone companies on the provision of information to the police about individuals who (i) solicited participation and (ii) participated (A) directly and (B) indirectly in recent public disorder; and if she will make a statement; [69835]

(3) what estimate she has made of the number of offenders who *(a)* solicited participation and *(b)* participated (i) directly and (ii) indirectly in recent public disorder by use of (A) the internet and (B) mobile telephones; and if she will make a statement. [69836]

Nick Herbert: It is clear that social networking sites were used to co-ordinate some of the criminality in the disorder in August. We do not have a clear picture of how many of those committing offences made use of such services.

On 25 August, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, held a constructive meeting with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Metropolitan Police Force and representatives from the social media industry. The discussions looked at how law enforcement and the networks can build on existing relationships and co-operation to prevent the networks being used for criminal behaviour.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to review the use of new methods of using mobile technology following the public disorder of August 2011. [70858]

Nick Herbert: On 25 August 2011, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, held a constructive meeting with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Metropolitan Police Service and representatives from the social media industry. Companies made clear

their commitment to removing illegal content and, when appropriate, closing accounts, whether at the request of the police or because of a report from other users. It was agreed to step up co-operation to ensure that these processes are working effectively.

ACPO is also taking forward work to develop the capability of police forces to use social media as a means of communicating and engaging with communities.

Firearms: Crime

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of public opinion on what constitutes a gun crime; and whether her Department's definition of a gun crime accords with that opinion. [85492]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office makes regular assessments of the threat posed by gun crime including issues relating to the definition of this category of offence.

Metropolitan Police: Finance

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the budget of the SO14 Royalty Protection Unit of the Metropolitan Police for the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [83819]

Damian Green *[holding answer 29 November 2011]:* We are unable to provide detailed information on the budget provided to SO14 Royalty Protection Unit of the Metropolitan Police. To do so would compromise the integrity of the security arrangements in place for members of the Royal Family.

We can provide details of the aggregate Home Office Dedicated Security Post (DSP) Grant which provides funding for police officers and staff who carry out protection duties. These duties relate to the protection of members of the Royal Family and their residences; and the protection of public figures, and their official and private residences. In 2010-11, £128 million was spent under the DSP Grant.

Police: Wales

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* special constables and *(b)* police community support officers (i) were assigned to duties in Dyfed Powys in (A) 2009 and (B) 2010 and (ii) have been assigned to duties in that area in 2011; [85609]

(2) how many police officers there were in Dyfed Powys police in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [85610]

Nick Herbert: The latest available information, which is set out in the following table, shows the number of police officers, special constables and police community support officers in Dyfed Powys police force between 2009 and 2011. Police officers and police community support officer figures are full-time equivalent which have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Special constables figures are given as headcount measures.

Number of police officers, special constables and police community support officers in Dyfed Powys police force between 2009 and 2011

As at 31 March each year	*Police officers*[1]	*Special constables*[2]	*Police community support officers*[1]
2009	1,197	176	82
2010	1,195	171	83
2011	1,157	186	80

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
[2] Special constable figures are given as headcount measures.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will ask the UK Border Agency to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 2 November 2011 regarding a constituent, ref: M1309525 and CTS ref: B28057/11. [85513]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 6 December 2011.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment and Support Allowance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 426-7W, on employment and support allowance, if he will estimate the level of the disregard for *(a)* personal and *(b)* occupational pensions in employment and support allowance calculations if the level had been uprated by the consumers price index since 2001; and if he will estimate the financial effect of such uprating on an individual with £110 personal pension and no other income. [85088]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is in the following table. Based on the information in the table a person on contributory employment and support allowance with an occupational pension of £110.00 a week would have their benefit reduced by £3.95 a week.

Consumer prices index date	*Consumer prices index rate of increase (percentage)*	*Benefit year*	*Threshold (£)*
September 2000	1.00	April 2001	85.00
September 2001	1.30	April 2002	85.85
September 2002	0.90	April 2003	86.95
September 2003	1.50	April 2004	87.75

Consumer prices index date	Consumer prices index rate of increase (percentage)	Benefit year	Threshold (£)
September 2004	1.10	April 2005	89.05
September 2005	2.40	April 2006	90.05
September 2006	2.40	April 2007	92.20
September 2007	1.70	April 2008	94.40
September 2008	5.20	April 2009	96.00
September 2009	1.10	April 2010	101.00
September 2010	3.10	April 2011	102.10

Note:
Benefit rates are normally increased from April each year. The rate of increase is based on the previous September's inflation rate. Contributory employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit for new claims from October 2008. Incapacity benefit and employment support allowance have the same threshold for occupational and personal pension income of £85.00 a week.

Employment Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the introduction of universal credit, what definition of *(a)* in employment and *(b)* off benefit his Department will use for the Work programme. [85599]

Chris Grayling: From the introduction of universal credit in 2013, we will continue to reward our Work programme contractors for getting claimants into work and keeping them there, in the same way that we do now.

We will be working in partnership with our contractors to develop an equivalent Work programme outcome definition which aligns current contracts with universal credit.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will publish details of the penalties for early termination of contracts under the *(a)* Flexible New Deal and *(b)* Pathways to Work programmes. [85600]

Chris Grayling: Discussions to agree settlements in closing Flexible New Deal contracts are currently in train. Information on settlement costs will be published once agreements have been reached with all contractors. No penalties were incurred in respect of the Pathways to Work programme.

Employment Schemes: Apprentices

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he intends to publish data on the number of job outcomes under the Work programme that result from placement of an apprenticeship. [85601]

Chris Grayling: As a minimum, DWP currently expects to publish referral figures from spring 2012 and job outcome figures from autumn 2012. DWP expects to make these publicly available by various breakdowns including age; gender; ethnicity; disability; provider; local authority; parliamentary constituency; and contract package area. However, this is dependant on the availability and quality of data from the administrative systems.

Presently, we do not plan to publish data on the number of job outcomes that result from placement of an apprenticeship. The exact details of what Work programme Official Statistics we will publish will be available once we have developed more detailed requirements and are confident that the data are of sufficient quality to publish.

An information note detailing the Work programme Official Statistics release strategy can be found at the following website:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=statistical_summaries

Included in the note is an invitation for feedback on the type of statistics users would like to see made available for the Work programme.

As soon as we are confident we have reliable data we will pre-announce an exact release date via this website and on the UK Statistics Authority publication hub. Statistics will be published in the DWP quarterly statistical summary and via an internet based tabulation tool offering users bespoke breakdowns of the headline statistics.

Housing Benefit

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receive local housing allowance in respect of *(a)* a shared room, *(b)* one bedroom, *(c)* two bedrooms, *(d)* three bedrooms, *(e)* four bedrooms and *(f)* five bedrooms in each local authority in Wales. [85650]

Steve Webb: Estimates of the numbers of local housing allowance (LHA) recipients on each rate, by local authority area, are published on the Department for Work and Pensions website (Annex 2, Table 5):

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/cia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf

Housing Benefit: Brent

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much discretionary housing payment was allocated to the London borough of Brent in the last five years; and what proportion of the funding was used in each year. [84041]

Steve Webb: The following table shows how much Government contribution towards discretionary housing payments was allocated to the London borough of Brent, how much of the Government contribution they claimed, how much they spent in excess of the Government contribution and how much they spent on discretionary housing payments as a percentage of the Government contribution for each of the last five years.

	Government contribution towards discretionary housing payments (£)	Amount claimed against the Government contribution (£)	Amount spent in excess of the Government contribution (£)	% of the Government contribution spent
2006-07	250,674	250,674	1,850	100.74
2007-08	230,888	230,888	19,966	108.65
2008-09	254,714	208,319	0	81.79
2009-10	236,294	236,294	0	100.00
2010-11	226,149	226,149	348	100.15

Housing Benefit: Females

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents in Wales receive housing benefit; and what proportion of such claimants are female. [85520]

Steve Webb: The information requested on lone parents in Wales receiving housing benefit and the percentage that are female is provided in the following table:

	Lone parents	
	Caseload	Percentage who are female
Wales	57,770	94.1

Notes:
1.
The figures have been rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Percentage has been rounded to the nearest decimal place.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full time, work more hours or earn more money.
4. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns.
5. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and August 2011 is the latest available.
6. For this analysis lone parents are those who are single with child dependant(s).
7. Caseload figure includes less than 1% of cases where gender is not recorded/missing.
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) August 2011.

Housing Benefit: Social Rented Housing

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effect on housing benefit claimants of the introduction of a size criteria in the social rented sector in each local authority in Wales. [85696]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

The estimated impact of changes to housing benefit for tenants living in the social rented sector is based upon information collected in the Department's Family Resources Survey. Because the survey collects information from only a sample of households, we cannot produce reliable estimates for the number of claimants likely to be affected by the size criteria in each local authority area.

In February 2011 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) produced an impact assessment entitled "Under-occupation of social housing", coinciding with the publication of the Welfare Reform Bill.

The impact assessment included regional estimates for the number of housing benefit claimants living in the social rented sector who were likely to be affected by the introduction of the size criteria. This included an estimate of the likely impact on Welsh housing benefit claimants.

The impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011-ia.pdf

Housing Benefit: Wales

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* each local authority in Wales will be worse off following the introduction of the housing benefit cap. [85691]

Chris Grayling: Estimates of the numbers affected in each local authority area by the introduction of caps on local housing allowance (LHA) rates and restricting LHA levels to the four bedroom rate are published on the Department for Work and Pensions website:

(Table 22)

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/impacts-of-hb-proposals.pdf

New Deal Schemes

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of referrals were dealt with by voluntary sector providers in each year of the Flexible new deal programme. [85603]

Chris Grayling: DWP held 24 contracts with 14 prime providers for Flexible new deal and none of those providers were from the voluntary sector.

Each prime provider had a supply chain of sub-contracts in place which included organisations from the voluntary sector. Data on the onward referral of claimants from prime providers to sub-contracted providers is not something that was recorded for Flexible new deal.

Pay

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the value of benefits in addition to annual salary given to the top one per cent. of earners in *(a)* 1981 and *(b)* 2011. [84461]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available either for benefits in kind or for state benefits.

Related information on amounts of taxable benefits in kind and expenses by income for years 2002-03 to years 2007-08 are published in table 4.2 on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/taxable_benefits/menu.htm

Related information on the receipt of state support by equivalised income quintile for working-age individuals for 2009-10 are published in Table 5.3 of the Households Below Average Income publication at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai/hbai2010/index.php?page=contents

Social Justice Directorate

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of his Department's budget allocated to the Social Justice Directorate in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [85296]

Chris Grayling: The Department's planned allocation set aside for the Social Justice Directorate across these years cannot be separately identified because priorities and allocations are continuously reviewed.

Social Security Benefits

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on support to fund additional work for people who left benefit and meet the Work programme's definition of in work but who will not receive working tax credit from April 2012 as a result of changes to the hours rule. [85602]

Chris Grayling: Work programme providers are paid for supporting people into work and helping them to stay there, for up to two years depending on the participants' circumstances. We have not specified what support the providers should give to participants once they find work—we expect them to innovate and find the most effective way of supporting them, reflecting their individual circumstances.

Unemployment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with Work programme providers since the publication of the Office for Budget Responsibility's new unemployment forecasts. [85549]

Chris Grayling: The DWP officials managing Work programme contracts will be responsible for communications with providers concerning the Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts.

Unemployment: Ex-servicemen

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the *(a)* employability and *(b)* employment retention of veterans. [85694]

Maria Miller: All new claimants for jobseekers allowance are assessed by Jobcentre Plus staff to ensure the most appropriate help is in place throughout their claim to support their employability.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not routinely record whether benefit claimants are former armed forces personnel. Also, the Labour Force Survey does not record whether respondents are former armed forces personnel.

We are looking into ways of improving knowledge on the employment and benefit outcomes of ex-service personnel.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register: Fraud

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many successful prosecutions for electoral registration fraud there were in each region in each of the last five years. [85263]

Mr Harper: Electoral Commission figures show that the number of convictions for electoral registration fraud across the United Kingdom over the last three years was as follows:

	Convictions
2008	1
2009	1
2010	—

The Government do not collect or hold this data, but these statistics can be found in the Electoral Commission's 'Analysis of cases of alleged electoral malpractice' accessible through the following internet links:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/109012/Integrity-report-FINAL-no-embargo.pdf

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/83702/063-Allegations-Report-final.pdf

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/74588/Allegations-of-Electoral-Malpractice-Web-Final.pdf

The data has only been collected in this format since 2008.

CABINET OFFICE

Advisory Services

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when his Department's review of free advice services will conclude; and when he expects to report the outcome of the review to the House. [85649]

Mr Hurd: The review of the free advice service sector announced on 21 November 2011 has now started and will conclude early next year. An appropriate announcement will be made at the relevant time.

Air Pollution: Cabinet Committees

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many meetings of the *(a)* Home Affairs and *(b)* Economic Affairs Cabinet Sub-Committees have considered the effects of government policy on (i) air quality and (ii) the natural environment since May 2010; [84029]

(2) which Cabinet Sub-Committees have discussed plans for meeting EU air quality limit values under the Ambient Air Quality Directive. [84034]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

In line with the constitutional convention of collective decision-making, and section 2 of the Ministerial Code, the Government do not disclose details of the internal process through which decisions are taken.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, is responsible for air quality (with the Secretary of State for Transport and the natural environment, and sits on the Economic Affairs and Home Affairs Cabinet Committees, where a wide range of issues are discussed.

Charitable Donations: Fraud

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent progress he has made in steps to tackle charity bag doorstep collection fraud. [85508]

Mr Hurd: These crimes are unacceptable and risk undermining the confidence of the generous donating public. I continue to encourage and support collaborative work between the charity sector, commercial recyclers, licensing and enforcement agencies, and government. The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau has made good progress in building intelligence and working with police forces to tackle the criminal gangs that are behind much of this crime. I also know that the Fund Raising Standards Board (FRSB), in collaboration with other stakeholders, has just launched a new public awareness campaign to tackle bogus charity collections and encourage the public to give with care. The FRSB has written to Members of this House inviting support for the campaign.

Government Departments: Databases

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the autumn statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, and the paper Further Detail on Open Data Measures in the Autumn Statement 2011, what discussions he has had with the Office for National Statistics on each of the measures listed in the paper prior to their announcement; what the outcome was of the discussions on each such measure; and if he will make a statement. [85597]

Mr Maude: Comprehensive stakeholder engagement was undertaken in developing open data measures which were announced in the Chancellor's autumn statement, including meeting with data users and the Office for National Statistics. The ONS will continue to be a key stakeholder for the Cabinet Office Transparency Team given their particular position providing national statistics.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects to reply to the letter of 19 July 2011 from the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed on a claim under the Civil Injury Benefit Scheme. [83162]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has no record of receiving a letter from the right hon. Member dated 19 July 2011. I have responded to his subsequent letter on the same topic today.

Public Sector: Part-time Employment

Jessica Morden: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the proportion of public sector workers who work part-time in Wales; and what proportion of such part-time workers are women. [85390]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate he has made of the proportion of public sector workers who work part-time in Wales; and what proportion of such part-time workers are women. 85390

For the period July-September 2011 the estimated proportion of public sector workers in Wales who work part-time was 27 per cent. The proportion of these workers who were women was 87 per cent. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are not seasonally adjusted. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

In the LFS the distinction between public and private sector is based on respondents' views about the organisation for which they work. The public sector estimates provided do not correspond to official Public Sector Employment estimates. Those are derived directly from employers and are based on National Accounts definitions, but do not include a gender breakdown.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards; [85836]

(2) what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure the country of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85837]

John Penrose: The Department does not source food as part of its day to day business, following the closure of the staff canteen in December 2009. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not hold the information requested for its public bodies.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how much his Department spent in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham in the last financial year for which figures are available; [85447]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated to Birmingham in *(a)* ring-fenced and *(b)* non-ring fenced funding grants for each of the next three years. [85448]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport analyses funding on a regional basis and not by individual cities across the country. To identify funding by geographical location could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85919]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport received 1,973 ordinary written parliamentary questions for answer from the start of this parliamentary Session to 30 November 2011. The following table shows the proportion of questions which received substantive replies within the timescale specified.

	Number which received a substantive reply in:			
Ordinary written PQs tabled this Session	*10 sitting days*	*20 sitting days*	*30 sitting days*	*30+ sitting days*
1,973	1,768 (89.6%)	129 (6.5%)	76 (3.85%)	0

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Gambling: Licensing

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what timetable he has set for the introduction of a secondary gaming licence for overseas gambling operators. [85506]

John Penrose: We are committed to taking forward this legislation and will introduce it at the earliest opportunity. The Government have a very full legislative programme, however, and we are pursuing all options.

Horse Racing: Betting

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport with reference to the Gambling Act 2005, when he expects the full agreement between the racecourse bookmakers and *(a)* Arena Leisure and *(b)* Jockey Club Racing to be announced. [86037]

John Penrose: We understand that an agreement between the racecourse bookmakers and Arena Leisure has been reached. The discussions with Jockey Club Racing, although progressing, are yet to be fully completed. Departmental officials are in close and regular contact with the Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers Ltd (FRB) and the Racecourse Association (RCA) over the discussions. I strongly encourage both sides to find a way to reach agreement before the end of the year.

Mass Media: Young People

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had on the negative portrayal of teenagers, including teenage mothers, in the media. [84908]

Mr Vaizey: We are committed to a media free from Government intervention. However, while respecting this independence, we continue to look to all media to deal responsibly and sensitively to public concerns about the portrayal of women and young people.

The UK's media regulatory system is one of the most robust in the world, aiming to strike the right balance between freedom of expression while ensuring media content is acceptable. Under this system, the various bodies which regulate the media have set out a range of controls in relation to discriminatory treatment and the portrayal of women.

The role the media can play in presenting positive portrayals of women is widely recognised by Government, regulators and media organisations. As part of our consideration of these issues the Violence Against Women and Girls Inter-Ministerial Group recently held a forum, organised with DCMS and chaired by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to discuss a range of concerns about the representation of women in the media.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will consider publishing an air quality risk assessment for the purposes of identifying the risks to the UK population of poor air quality and priority areas for action. [84127]

Richard Benyon: Under the ambient air quality directive (2008/50/EC) and the fourth daughter directive (2004/107/EC), in September each year the UK publishes a compliance assessment for the previous calendar year. This identifies those parts of the UK where further action is needed to improve air quality. It is available on the library section of the UK-Air website:

http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of poor air quality on different socio-economic groups. [84142]

Richard Benyon: The Government have published reports analysing air quality and social deprivation, which are publicly available on the UK-Air website:

http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/

The most recent report, 'Air Quality and Social Deprivation in the UK: an environmental inequalities analysis' is from 2006. This highlights the complex relationship between the distribution of pollutant concentrations and areas of social deprivation, which depends on the pollutant in question and differs in the UK's various cities and regions.

Air Pollution: EU Law

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish the minutes of each meeting her Department has had with the European Commission to discuss plans for meeting EU air quality limit values under the ambient air quality directive. [84051]

Richard Benyon: In September DEFRA submitted air quality plans to the European Commission setting out how the limit values for nitrogen dioxide are to be met in the shortest possible time. The Commission has up to nine months to assess these plans. DEFRA has had no bilateral meetings with the Commission to discuss them.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has completed an equalities impact assessment in respect of its air quality plans for the achievement of EU air quality limit values for nitrogen dioxide. [84052]

Richard Benyon: The air quality plans that were submitted to the European Commission in September 2011 assessed the impact that relevant current and planned policies, and local air quality plans, were likely to have on concentrations of nitrogen dioxide.

The need for an equalities impact assessment is considered when decisions about new policies are being made.

Biofuels: Pollution

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans her Department has to measure *(a)* black carbon and *(b)* arsenic emissions from biomass generating plants. [84138]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 302W.

Carbon Emissions

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions her Department has had with the Department for Transport on the introduction of a national framework for low emission zones; [84049]

(2) what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of achieving EU air quality limit values for nitrogen dioxide by 1 January 2015; [84050]

(3) what assessment she has made of the potential contribution of a National Framework for Low Emission Zones to improving air quality. [84144]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is working closely with the Department for Transport to investigate further measures to reduce pollution from heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and buses, including the feasibility of a national framework for low emission zones. A report on the feasibility of developing a certification scheme for technology retrofitted to HGVs to abate nitrogen oxides emissions was published in November and is available on the UK-Air website:

http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/

An assessment of technical measures needed to achieve compliance with EU air quality limit values was undertaken, which informed an impact assessment of a low emissions zone framework for inclusion in the time extension notification for compliance with the EU limit value for nitrogen dioxide. This impact assessment was published in June 2011 and is available on DEFRA's website.

An assessment of the potential contribution of a national framework for low emission zones to improving air quality was included in our air quality plans for nitrogen dioxide. These plans were submitted to the European Commission in September. The air quality plans are available on the library section of the UK-Air website.

Coastal Areas: Access

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress her Department has made on a timetable for the creation of coastal access pathways in England; and when such a timetable will be published. [85311]

Richard Benyon: We will introduce the new right of coastal access on a 30 km stretch of the English coast between Portland and Lulworth Cove in Dorset in time for the Olympic and Paralympic sailing events, which begin in July 2012. We are now at the stage of considering the "appointed person's" report and recommendations into the objections that were made to Natural England's proposals.

Natural England is also currently working on proposals to implement coastal access in a further five areas around the coast. When proposals for the coastal route have been prepared in each of the five areas, Natural England will start a period of local consultation.

DEFRA is working closely with Natural England to look at how we move forward after Weymouth and the five other stretches. It is important that we have the opportunity to look at the lessons learnt from the current projects that are being implemented to make sure that coastal access is delivered as cost effectively as possible.

Debt Recovery

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of invoices from suppliers her Department paid within 10 days of receipt in July and August 2010. [74351]

Richard Benyon: During July and August 2010, 8,819 out of 8,892 valid invoices were paid by the Department within 10 days of receipt which equates to 99.18%.

Departmental Buildings

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on refurbishing and redecorating ministerial offices in her Department since May 2010. [80269]

Richard Benyon: There has been no expenditure incurred refurbishing and redecorating ministerial offices in DEFRA since May 2010.

Scientific Advice

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on requiring her Department's *(a)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(b)* contractors to have a written code of practice or protocol relating to the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. [72470]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is as follows:

(a) DEFRA's agencies and arm's length bodies are expected to adopt good practice in the provision, conduct and quality assurance of scientific evidence and advice. A number have adopted internationally recognised or certified schemes, such as those provided by ISO or the OECD standard for Good Laboratory Practice, and have written codes or procedures as required by those schemes, or follow national codes such as the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Others have their own codes or procedures in place, tailored to reflect their own circumstances, and consistent with guidelines issued by the Government chief scientific adviser on the use of scientific and engineering advice in policy-making where these guidelines are relevant. DEFRA's Science Advisory Council operates in line with the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees (currently being updated) and the Principles for Scientific Advice to Government. The guidelines, code of practice and principles referred to above are all available on the BIS website.

Given that DEFRA has different relationships and governance structures with its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) and agencies—for example some NDPBs have a statutory purpose to provide evidence and advice—DEFRA has not prescribed any central policies regarding the provision, conduct and quality assurance of evidence and advice for its arm's length bodies.

(b) DEFRA is a co-signatory to the Joint Code of Practice for Research (JCoPR—available on the BBSRC website), which sets out principles for the quality of science and quality of the research process that research contractors sponsored by DEFRA must follow (if the JCoPR is not relevant to the proposed project, e.g. social research or economics, suppliers are required to describe what quality assurance measures they have in place). A number of DEFRA's arm's length bodies are in the process of adopting the JCoPR.

Nitrogen Dioxide

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure that nitrogen dioxide levels are within legal limits in all of the UK's zones and agglomerations by 1 January 2015. [84143]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 186W.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many days each of the UK's zones and agglomerations exceeded the legal limit for nitrogen dioxide in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* between 1 January 2011 and 31 October 2011; [84145]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of days each of the UK's zones and agglomerations will exceed the legal limit for nitrogen dioxide in *(a)* each of the next three years and *(b)* 2020. [84146]

Richard Benyon: The legal limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) have been set for both one-hour and annual-average time periods, but not for periods of a day. The one-hour limit value is exceeded if more than 18 hours exceed the limit at a monitoring site in a single year. A count of days does not directly demonstrate whether or not the one-hour or annual limit values have been exceeded in a year and does not form part of any compliance assessment for nitrogen dioxide legal limits.

Compliance assessments for 2010 for both the annual and one-hour NO_2 limit values are available on the library section of the UK-Air website:

http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/

Where applicable, projections of compliance with the one-hour and annual NO_2 limit values for 2015 and 2020 were published as part of updated air quality plans submitted to the Commission in September 2011. These are also available on the UK-Air website.

Public Sector Employee Bids

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps she is taking to put in place a right to provide for public sector workers to take over the running of services; and if she will make a statement; [74779]

(2) what steps her Department has taken to encourage the development of public service mutuals in its area of responsibility; and if she will make a statement. [74827]

Richard Benyon: The "right to provide" was drawn to the attention of all staff when the Open Public Services White Paper was published. A process for consideration of employee-led mutual candidates is now being established.

World War II: Medals

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* Women's Land Army and *(b)* Women's Timber Corps lapel badges were awarded in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) 2011 to date. [85371]

Mr Paice: As at 1 December 2011 a total of 35,509 badges had been issued to former members of the Women's Land Army (WLA) and Women's Timber Corps (WTC). No distinction is made between those who served in WLA and the WTC. The number of badges issued in each year was as follows:

	Badges issued
2008	32,961
2009	1,838
2010	476
2011 (to date)	234

TREASURY

Capital Allowances: North-east England

Helen Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the extension of 100 per cent. capital allowances in the North East region. [85351]

Mr Gauke: The provision of 100% first year capital allowances for qualifying expenditure in Enterprise Zones in the North East Region is estimated to cost approximately £40 million over the next five years.

Credit Cards: Fees and Charges

John Thurso: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to tackle excessive surcharges following the Office of Fair Trading's recommendations on card payment charges. [84851]

Mr Hoban: The Government are currently considering the Office of Fair Trading's recommendations and will update the House in due course.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Simon Hart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of extending the fuel duty discount pilot scheme to rural areas of Wales. [85607]

Miss Chloe Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 69W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Skipton and Ripon (Julian Smith).

National Savings and Investments: Post Offices

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer over what period he expects National Savings and Investments to withdraw its products from the Post Office network. [85155]

Miss Chloe Smith: The majority of NS&I's products are already managed by customers directly with NS&I. At the end of the final phase of NS&I's modernisation programme, in 2013, NS&I's range of savings and investments will only be available direct from NS&I, apart from Premium Bonds which NS&I intends to continue to offer through the Post Office.

Renewable Energy: North-east England

Helen Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* enhanced cap allowances and *(b)* public spending support to the Centres for Offshore Renewable Engineering at (i) Tees and (ii) Tyne. [85348]

Miss Chloe Smith: The provision of 100% first year capital allowances for qualifying expenditure in the Tees Valley and North East Enterprise Zones is estimated to cost approximately £40 million over the next five years. Centres for Offshore Renewable Engineering (COREs) are the beginning of a strengthened partnership between central Government and Local Enterprise Partnerships, to build on UK strengths in offshore wind. There is no spending commitment directly attached to COREs.

Stamp Duties

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of houses sold for over £1 million on which stamp duty land tax was paid at the full rate in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [85199]

Miss Chloe Smith: Information on residential property transactions priced at over £1 million for 2008, 2009 and 2010 can be found in National Statistics table T16.1 on the HMRC website

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/survey_of_prop/table16-1.pdf

The corresponding figures for 2007 show a total of 1,613,000 residential property transactions in the UK, with 16,000 of those priced at over £1 million.

HMRC holds no data on residential property sales where a land transaction return is not made.

Stamp Duties: Tax Evasion

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the level of tax evasion on stamp duty; and what steps he is taking to reduce the level of such stamp duty evasion. [85268]

Miss Chloe Smith: Stamp duty (as opposed to stamp duty land tax) applies to transfers of stock and marketable securities via a stock transfer form.

There is no liable person for stamp duty and no statutory compulsion to present a document for stamping. So it is not appropriate to refer to "evasion" in this context.

The sanctions against leaving a document unstamped are that it cannot then be used as evidence in UK court proceedings (other than criminal proceedings) and that penalties and interest are charged for late stamping.

Taxation: Gambling

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made in its plans to tax remote gambling companies by making the taxable location the point of sale to the customer. [85507]

Miss Chloe Smith: On 18 July 2011, the Government announced their intention to review the taxation regime for remote gambling, looking at the case for taxing operators on the basis of customer location.

The initial review closed on 30 November 2011. All responses received are now being analysed. No decisions have been taken on whether to proceed with reform.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many emergency readmissions there have been in each NHS primary care trust in each year since 1997; [85143]

(2) what the emergency readmission rate within 28 days of discharge was for each acute trust in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [85249]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the precise form or for the periods requested. The available information will be collated and placed in the Library as soon as possible.

Community Nurses

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average case load for district nurses *(a)* in each primary care trust area and *(b)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [85165]

Anne Milton: No estimate has been made centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to commission district nursing services and to determine their case loads taking into account local needs and resources.

Management Consultants

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has paid to *(a)* management consultants and *(b)* private health companies since May 2010; and what services were paid for. [85246]

Mr Simon Burns: The figures for expenditure on external management consultants for the Department of Health (this includes the core Department and Connecting for Health) for the last financial year 2010-11 are:

From April 2010-11—£14.77 million. (Figures can only be provided for the full financial year).

From April 2011-12 (The current financial year, to date)—£5.48 million.

The figure for expenditure on private health companies providing services for national health service patients through the independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) since May 2010 is £282,179,000.

A full breakdown of the information by cost, supplier and description for core Department of Health expenditure for 2010-11 entitled 'Core Department of Health external consultancy expenditure for financial year 2010-11' has been placed in the Library.

Expenditure on management consultancies and private health companies since April 2010, and the value and supplier for each transaction (excluding core Department of Health expenditure for 2010-11) is shown in the following tables.

Connecting for Health (CfH) expenditure on management consultants for the financial year 2010-11

Supplier name	*Requirement description*	*2010-11 total (£)*
DLA Piper UK LLP	Legal Spend	4,281,795.33
Milbank Tweed Hadley and McCloy LLP	Legal Spend	402,929.16
QI Consulting	OGC SACS	136,727.75
Concerto Consulting	OGC SACS	103,776.00
Eversheds LLP	<£20,000	21,615.30
NHS Business Services Authority	<£20,000	14,875.79
PA Consulting Services Ltd	HR Strategy	8,042.77
Bishops Beech Ltd	ISO 20000 proj	4,422.86
Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	<£20,000	750.00
Samuel Phillips	<£20,000	440.63
Department For Work And Pensions	<£20,000	254.09
Birmingham City Council	<£20,000	126.90
Total	—	4,975,756.58

Core departmental expenditure on management consultants for the current financial year 2011-12 (up to the present day)

Supplier name	*Requirement description*	*FY 2011-12 actual spend to date (£)*
Allen and Overy	Legal Advice for Care provision	9,457
Baker Tilly	Legal Advice for Care provision	19,035
Capita Symonds	Estates transition programme	41,561
DLA Piper	PICD-PIPP-FluLine-Legal Advice—National Fluline Service	97,531
Duerden	Professor Duerden	138
McKinsey and Co	NHS Transition Programme	200,300
Norton Rose Vieregge	Appointment of legal advisors on the sale of NHS Professionals	22,912
Portico	Technical advice to the CAF programme	68,591
PWC	Community Pharmacy Cost of Service Inquiry	46,050
Total	—	505,575

CfH expenditure on management consultants for the current financial year 2011-12 (to October)

Supplier name	*Requirement description*	*2011-12 total (£)*
DLA Piper UK LLP	Legal Spend	5,296,798
Milbank Tweed Hadley and Mccloy LLP	Legal Spend	780,999
QI Consulting	<£20,000 Uncategorised	24,018
NHS Business Services Authority	<£20,000 Legal	16,793
Bishops Beech Ltd	ISO 20000 Project	3,281
Total	—	6,121,890

Core departmental expenditure on private health companies, providing services for NHS patients through the independent sector treatment centres since May 2010

Contract	*Description*	*Value (£000)*
D01—London	Various direct access diagnostics (most likely to be MRI) delivered from mobile units in London	34,706
E01—Avon, Gloucester, Wiltshire	Elective care, various specialties in Avon Gloucester, Wiltshire	51,147
E05—Cumbria and Lancashire	Elective care, various specialties.	50,320
E06—Cheshire and Merseyside	Elective care, various specialties	16,645
E08—Greater Manchester CATS	Assessment services and minor procedures in the Manchester area	36,313
E09—Hampshire and Isle of Wight	Elective care, various specialties	32,661
E15—Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	Elective care, various specialties	11,680
E16—Renal	Renal dialysis in the north of England	17,430
P8N—PET CY North	PET/CT scans in the North of England. These are scans for cancer and requested by oncologists	15,111
P8S—PET CT South	PET/CT scans in the South of England. These are scans for cancer and requested by oncologists	16,166
All schemes	All Phase 2 ISTC Schemes from May 2010 to October 2011	282,179

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which public appointees to senior positions in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its executive agencies, *(c)* official reviews and *(d)* commissions of enquiry have declared membership of the Conservative party in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [85266]

Mr Simon Burns: Information about the membership of political parties of appointees to senior positions in the Department and its public bodies is neither held nor collected centrally.

The Department complies with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. This requires that departments ask appointees to public bodies for information which is already in the public domain, and stipulates that they should not seek personal or private information such as membership of political parties.

Diabetes

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people with diabetes in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Dartford constituency in each of the last five years. [85194]

Paul Burstow: The full data set to be able to answer this question accurately are not available.

The following table shows the number of diabetes registrations in National Diabetes Audit (NDA) data for England and Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) diabetes registrations for England for the last five years.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
National Diabetes Audit England total[1]	655,953	1,221,814	1,423,669	1,658,409	1,929,985
Quality Outcomes Framework England total[2]	1,890,663	1,961,976	2,088,335	2,213,138	2,338,813

[1] The NDA contains people with diabetes (all types) of all ages, however it is not mandatory, and does not have 100% coverage or participation.
[2] QOF data only contain patients aged 17 years and over with diabetes mellitus.

The following table shows the NDA data for each of the Kent primary care trusts (PCTs) for the last four years. Growth in numbers of registrations in NDA needs to be assessed in the context of the growth in coverage for the audit. QOF data are an aggregate return so do not contain the detail required to respond at this level.

PCT	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	26,669	22,526	21,433	18,570
Medway PCT	13,038	12,321	1,935	2,538
West Kent PCT	27,087	24,274	21,587	8,770
Total	66,794	59,121	44,955	29,878

Data are not held at a constituency level.

Doctors: Vacancies

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacancies for junior doctors there were in each month since May 2010. [85241]

Anne Milton: We do not hold this information centrally.

Eating Disorders

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* women's groups and *(b)* men's groups on treatment and support available to (i) adults and (ii) children with eating disorders; and if he will make a statement. [85144]

Paul Burstow: We are committed to improving mental health among the whole population. That is why we are providing around £400 million over the next four years

to expand psychological therapies, with an annual £8 million investment to expand access to psychological therapies to children and young people.

Early intervention is essential for those with eating disorders and we have been clear that general practitioners are expected to use National Institute for Health and Clinical Evidence guidance when choosing the most appropriate treatments, from physical and psychological treatments to medicines. Access to high-quality mental health care, based on the best available evidence and delivered by staff with an appropriate range of skills and competencies, is critical to meeting the specific needs of this group of people.

The Government Equalities Office have begun a campaign which aims to reduce the burdens that popular culture places on an individual's well-being and self-esteem.

The Government have convened a group of experts to identify non-legislative solutions to tackling low levels of body confidence. This includes representatives from health care, fashion, beauty, media, advertising, and the voluntary sector.

Health

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans to launch a revised public health responsibility deal. [85595]

Anne Milton: There are no plans to launch a revised Public Health Responsibility Deal. The networks continue to develop the next tranche of pledges that we expect will go much further and demand even greater commitment and action on the part of industry.

Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms his Department has put in place to assess the level of access to health services by war veterans. [85242]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is currently working on a number of physical and mental health care improvement programmes for veterans, and their families. These include, veteran-specific mental health services coming out of the implementation of the recommendations of Dr Andrew Murrison's 'Fighting Fit report'; and the development of enhanced rehabilitation and prosthetics services across England and the devolved Administrations in response to his latest report 'A Better Deal for Military Amputees'. The Department has committed significant sums of money to this work: £7.2 million in respect of Fighting Fit, and £15 million for the prosthetic care improvements.

It should also be noted that the Department has taken steps towards ensuring that more general practitioner (GPs) are made aware of the specific health care needs of service personnel. These include, the setup of armed forces networks in the 10 existing strategic health authority areas, through which national health service staff and forces representatives can plan the care of their local military and veterans' populations; and the launch of an e-learning package in conjunction with the Royal College of General Practitioners, to raise GPs awareness of the types of health care needs veterans with which veterans are likely to present.

Through the improvement of veteran-specific services and awareness raising among health professionals, the Department hopes to ensure that veterans will get a much better deal from their health services.

Health Visitors

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to publish an annual report on the health visitor implementation plan, 2011-15; [85577]

(2) when he expects to publish his first quarterly progress report on the health visitor workforce. [85578]

Anne Milton: The Department will publish its first annual report on the "Health Visitor Implementation Plan—A Call To Action 2011-15" by the end of this calendar year.

The first quarterly report on progress relating to the Government's commitment on health visiting, "A Call to Action Health Visitor Implementation Plan Summary Progress Report", was published on the Department's website on 31 October 2011, and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_130856

A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

Health Visitors: Manpower

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors have returned to work in the NHS in each of the last five years. [85576]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected by the Department, however from January 2012, as part of the Health Visiting Minimum Data Set, the NHS Information Centre will be collecting the number of health visitors who return to practice.

Health Visitors: Training

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors were in training in each of the last five years. [85574]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the number of health visitors in training in each of the last five years:

Health visitor training commissions 2006-07 to 2010-11

	Actual commissions
2006-07	391
2007-08	269
2008-09	433
2009-10	514
2010-11	545

Source:
Quarterly strategic health authority financial management returns

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for changes to the content of health visitor higher education programmes. [85575]

Anne Milton: In order to achieve the best outcomes in health visitor education for both staff and patients alike, the Department is working closely with education commissioners and the higher education sector to review the content of health visitor educational programmes.

The purpose of this collaborative working is to ensure that curricula and practice are aligned with the service vision set out in 'The Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2011-15, A Call to Action'. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Health: Salt

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to revise the targets for salt reduction contained in the public health responsibility deal. [85596]

Anne Milton: The Government have no plans currently to revise the Responsibility Deal salt targets; partners who have signed up to the salt reduction pledge have until 2012 to meet the targets.

Salt reduction is a key priority of the Public Health Responsibility Deal. As part of its work programme for 2012-13, the High Level Steering Group of the Food Network will consider what further actions are necessary to ensure continued progress towards the public health goal to reduce people's average salt consumption to no more than 6 grams of salt/person/day for adults and less for children.

Herbal Medicine: EU Law

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions officials in his Department have had with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency on enforcement of the EU Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products (Directive 2004/24/EC); when such discussions took place; and if he will make a statement; [85172]

(2) how many companies have been investigated by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency for selling herbal medicinal products as food supplements in the last 12 months; when he expects each investigation to reach a conclusion; whether the product investigated will be removed from sale immediately if they are found to have breached the regulations; and if he will make a statement. [85173]

Mr Simon Burns: There have been no discussions between Ministers or officials with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) specifically about the enforcement of Directive 2004/24/EC. It is possible that the subject has been discussed in the context of how the end of the section 12(2) exemption in the Medicines Act 1968 would impact on herbal practitioners but such discussions would have been incidental to the main issue of practitioner regulation. The classification of products as medicines is made on a case-by-case basis by the MHRA. The MHRA does not hold information on how many herbal medicines have been presented as food supplements. Action taken by the MHRA will depend on the nature of the breach of regulation and any danger to public health posed by the product; this can include requiring the product to be removed immediately from the market. The MHRA is currently considering how effective, proportionate enforcement action can best ensure that the intended benefits of the legislation for consumers and for companies compliant with the legislation are achieved.

HIV Infection

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he took to mark World AIDS day 2011. [85453]

Anne Milton: World AIDS day provides the opportunity for people to unite to show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. To mark World AIDS day I spoke at a reception held by the Terrence Higgins Trust and hosted by my noble Friend, Lord Fowler, on 29 November.

The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister both recorded a video message for World AIDS day.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce HIV infection rates; and what steps he plans to take to enable people who are most at risk of contracting HIV to participate in a comprehensive testing and education regime. [85555]

Anne Milton: The Department continues to fund targeted programmes of work on prevention for the groups most at risk of HIV in the United Kingdom and these highlight the importance of HIV testing. Additionally, in February 2011, the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence published its recommendations on increasing the offer of HIV testing to men who-have-sex-with-men and black African communities which we welcome.

Increasing the offer and uptake of HIV testing in a variety of health care settings, both primary and secondary, is important to reduce undiagnosed HIV. We are considering the findings of the Time to Test report, which was published by the Health Protection Agency in September this year which assessed the feasibility and acceptability of routinely offering HIV testing in eight pilot projects that were funded by the Department. We are also funding a three year project by the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health to produce an interactive tool to support general practitioners and primary care staff in offering HIV testing.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* young adults and *(b)* people were diagnosed with HIV in each of the last five years. [85614]

Anne Milton: The number of new HIV diagnoses reported in England in young adults, aged 15 to 24 and people of all ages, in each of the last five years, are shown in the following table:

Age group	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
15 to 24 years	742	733	700	633	631
Total—all ages	6,936	6,735	6,665	6,082	6,108

Note:
Diagnoses are from reports received to end June 2011.

Injuries: Dogs

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under 16 years were admitted to hospital because of injuries received from a dog in England and Wales in *(a)* 2011 and *(b)* 2010. [85571]

Mr Simon Burns: In 2010-11, there were 1,481 finished admission episodes[1] (FAEs) for children under 16 in England with a cause code[2] of bitten or struck by dog. In 2009-10, there were 1,382 FAEs for children under 16 in England with a cause code of bitten or struck by dog.

The Department does not collect information on the devolved Administrations.

Ministers in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have been working closely with Government and non-government organisations to prepare a package of measures to encourage more responsible dog ownership and reduce dog attacks. This work is nearing completion and an announcement will be made by that Department shortly.

[1] A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] A supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode is counted in Hospital Episode Statistics. Cause code used: W54—Bitten or struck by dog.

Lee Communications and Public Affairs

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings Ministers in his Department had with *(a)* Kevin Lee and *(b)* representatives of Lee Communications Public Affairs Limited between July 2009 and May 2010; and what the (i) date, (ii) names of those attending and (iii) subject of each meeting was. [85515]

Mr Simon Burns: Details of all ministerial meetings with external parties are published quarterly in arrears on the Department's website. Data from 1 January 2010 up to the end of March 2011 can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/Departmentdirectors/DH_110759

No data are held prior to this date.

Mass Media

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on media monitoring since May 2010. [85195]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department spend on media monitoring since May 2010 is provided in the following table:

	Spend since May 2010[1] (£)
Press cuttings	164,797.28
Media monitoring	125,544.16

[1] Exclusive of VAT

Medical Treatments: Lasers

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the provision of specialist training for [redacted] of class four laser treatment in the private therapy sector; and if he will make a statement. [85695]

Mr Simon Burns: Following deregulation of providers of class 3B and class 4 lasers lights in 2010, the Department supported creation of an industry led, assurance scheme whose objectives include publication of a set of accepted essential standards and a model training programme for educators to use. Work to develop these standards is being co-ordinated by the Independent Healthcare Advisory Service.

Meningitis: Vaccination

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 580W, on meningitis: vaccination, whether his Department has received the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's recommendation on meningococcal B vaccination. [85024]

Anne Milton: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is continuing to assess carefully the impact and cost effectiveness of a potential vaccination programme against meningococcal B bacteria. The conclusions of JCVI's assessment are not expected until early 2013 at the very earliest.

Mental Health Services

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 961-2W, on mental health services, when he expects the National Liaison and Diversion Programme to complete its mapping exercise of mental health service provision in England. [85193]

Paul Burstow: The National Liaison and Diversion Programme is expected to complete the mapping exercise by April 2012.

Mental Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what specialist mental health services are provided for armed forces veterans. [85248]

Mr Simon Burns: At least one in four people experience a mental health problem at some point in their life and mental ill-health represents up to 23% of the total burden of ill health in the United Kingdom—the largest single cause of illness. The Government are committed to the health and welfare of people serving in the armed forces, both during and after their time in service. This is part of rebuilding the Military Covenant, which is the basis for government policy aimed at improving the support available for the armed forces community. While the majority of service personnel do not experience mental health problems, mental health services still have a key role to play in fulfilling this covenant.

Shortly after coming into power, the current Government commissioned my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) to carry out a report into the mental health provision made for serving personnel and veterans. 'Fighting Fit' was published in October 2010, and the Government immediately accepted all of its recommendations. The Department also announced a spending commitment of £7.2 million over the spending review period, to implement these recommendations. The Department is working closely with the Ministry of Defence, the national health service, Combat Stress and others to deliver the recommendations made by Dr Murrison in his report 'Fighting Fit'. Excellent progress has been made against almost all of these, and the work will continue. Work includes, the launch of a 24-hour veterans' helpline; the launch of an online early intervention peer support wellbeing and counselling service; and a commissioning increase in specifically targeted mental health professionals within the NHS.

NHS: Buildings

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from which planned NHS building projects his Department has withdrawn support in the last 12 months. [85142]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department monitors progress and approves business cases for major capital investment schemes (above a delegated approval limit of £35 million) taken forward by national health service trusts. None of these schemes have been stopped or cancelled in the last 12 months.

NHS: Crimes of Violence

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to prevent attacks on NHS staff. [85250]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has a zero tolerance approach to violence against national health service staff.

NHS Protect leads work to deter and prevent violence and aggression against NHS staff in England.

Employers have a duty to identify and address risks to their staff. NHS Protect offers policy and operational guidance and assistance on this to NHS bodies and provides training for locally based security specialists.

Following enactment of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, NHS Protect manage the provision of training to staff in the use of new powers to remove from hospital premises those causing a nuisance or disturbance, in order to tackle lower level nuisance behaviour and stop it from escalating into violence.

Conflict resolution training has been provided for frontline NHS staff in all sectors in the skills needed to recognise and defuse potentially violent situations before they become more serious. NHS Protect are reviewing the national training syllabus and standard.

NHS Protect manage the provision of a lone worker alarm service for NHS staff who work alone. Over 40,000 NHS staff are using this service, which enables lone workers to signal covertly for help from emergency services if needed and which provides a system control centre able to listen to and record events in a way that is legally admissible in prosecution cases that arise from incidents.

Where violent incidents do occur, NHS Protect is committed to ensuring that tough action, including appropriate sanctions, is taken against those who are violent and aggressive toward NHS staff. A new joint working agreement between NHS Protect, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Crown Prosecution Service aims to ensure that criminal assaults are identified and do not go unpunished.

Nutrition: EU Law

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to implement European Commission Regulation (EC) No 41/2009 on the gluten content of food. [85673]

Anne Milton: The Foodstuffs Suitable for People Intolerant to Gluten (England) Regulations 2010, were laid before Parliament on 20 September 2010 and come into force on 1 January 2012.

Orphan Drugs

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he has taken to ensure that the criteria used by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services for the selection of medicines for assessment complement one another to avoid duplication or omission; [85256]

(2) what his policy is on broadening the definition of orphan medicines that the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services will accept into its assessment process; [85257]

(3) if he will extend the capacity of the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services to conduct assessments of orphan medicines. [85258]

Mr Simon Burns: The majority of new drugs and significant licence extensions are considered through the topic selection process for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) technology appraisal programme, against published criteria. In certain cases NICE will consider sending high cost low volume drugs for the treatment of rare conditions to the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services (AGNSS) for consideration for possible inclusion in the arrangements for national specialised commissioning. NICE and the secretariat to AGNSS work very closely together.

The orphan drug legislation is a European Commission Regulation (No. 141/2000) and was introduced to include a specific incentive which provides for a period of market exclusivity for a company which develops an orphan drug.

As an independent body NICE is responsible for developing its technology appraisal methodology. NICE has appraised a number of designated orphan medicines where they have met the published criteria for referral.

Funding to enable AGNSS to consider high cost low volume drugs is met from within its running costs.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Retail Trade

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will assess the effects of the one-bag rule for hand luggage operated by airlines on the level of airport retail sales; and if she will make a statement. [85026]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for North West Leicestershire (Andrew Bridgen) on 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 209W.

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on the number of people employed in the airport retail sector at each UK airport. [85028]

Mrs Villiers: The Department does not hold any such information.

Electric Vehicles: Bicycles

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the number of accidents involving scooter-style electric bicycles, in each of the last three years. [85604]

Mike Penning: Electrically assisted bicycles are not identified as a separate element in accident statistics.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has plans to review the rules regulating the licensing and use of scooter-style electric bicycles. [85605]

Mike Penning: A public consultation on electric cycle legislation (The Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle Regulations SI 1168/1983) was completed in March 2010. The legislation was also considered under the Road Transport theme of the Red Tape Challenge initiative. The Department will shortly be publishing a summary of consultation responses and a statement on next steps.

The Department is also negotiating a new EU regulation on two, three and light four wheel vehicles, including certain types of electric cycles. The outcome of these discussions are expected to conclude during the summer 2012. Decisions reached at EU level may affect how we regulate certain electric cycles in GB.

Northern Rail

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to improve Northern Rail connectivity between Liverpool and Newcastle; and what recent progress she has made on the Northern Hub. [85273]

Mrs Villiers: In the recent autumn statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the electrification of the north Trans-Pennine route between Manchester and York.

We have previously announced that the line between Liverpool and Manchester via the Chat Moss route would be electrified and have given the go-ahead for the Ordsall Chord scheme in Manchester.

These investments, which are vital to the delivery of the Northern Hub strategy, will provide the opportunity for train operators to provide a direct fast service between Liverpool and Newcastle up to 45 minutes quicker than today.

Railway Stations: Manpower

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many station staff on average were employed at railway stations in category *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C, *(d)* D and *(e)* E in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [85598]

Mrs Villiers: The Department does not hold this information.

Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the invitation to tender for search and rescue helicopters includes a requirement that helicopters be equipped with night vision goggles. [85586]

Mike Penning: The UK Search and Rescue Helicopters project has an output based requirement including the requirement to operate aircraft safely at low level at night and in low light conditions in both the maritime and overland environments. The contractor must also enable the aircrew (pilots and rear-crew) to conduct aided visual searches. It is for the contractor to develop solutions to meet these requirements. However, it is highly unlikely that the contractor could meet these requirements without the use of night vision aids. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) already permits the use of night vision devices in civilian registered aircraft subject to the demonstration of adequate training processes and safe operating procedures.

Severn River Crossing

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money has been raised by Severn River Crossing in each of the last five years; how much has been paid to Severn River Crossing plc in each of the last five years; and how much remains to be paid to Severn River Crossing plc in the remainder of the current concession period. [85692]

Mike Penning: Severn River Crossing plc's (SRC) accounts are publicly available and are placed in the House Library. SRC's toll revenues (net of VAT) for the past five years are:

	£ million
2006	72.0
2007	76.1
2008	77.6
2009	77.4
2010	76.0

SRC was paid the following amounts for work which the concessionaire is not liable for under the terms of the agreement. This relates primarily to mitigation works for the corrosion of the main suspension cables on the original Severn Bridge.

	£ million
2006-07	3.8
2007-08	4.2
2008-09	6.5
2009-10	3.5
2010-11	3.2

As of 30 June 2011, the cumulative amount collected from the tolls during the concession period was £752.1 million (in July 1989 prices). The concession period ends when SRC has archived cumulative revenue of £995.83 million (in July 1989 prices, gross of operating costs). The remaining amount to be collected is £243.7 million in July 1989 prices, or about £502 million in current prices.

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect on UK carbon emissions of the level of investment in *(a)* rail and *(b)* road set out in the autumn statement. [85347]

Norman Baker: All transport investments over £100,000 included in the autumn statement are subject to assessment, in line with the Department's guidance.

The Transport Business Case, which sets out the Department's approach to producing business cases to inform ministerial decisions, is available here:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/howthedftworks/transportbusinesscase/

Guidance on the detailed appraisal of transport projects in respect of their greenhouse gas emissions is also published in the Department's appraisal guidance ("webTAG"). The latest guidance is published at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/webtag/documents/expert/unit3.3.5.php

The Government's Carbon Plan was published on 1 December and available here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/carbon_plan/carbon_plan.aspx

The Carbon Plan sets out how we will deliver on our Climate Change Act 2050 target and intermediate carbon budgets. Transport will make a major contribution to reducing UK GHG emissions, with the ultimate aim of substantially decarbonising land transport by 2050.

The autumn statement announced several policies which will help to reduce transport's GHG emissions, including:

Providing a further £50 million to be used by local transport authorities for transport improvement schemes many of which will have focal environmental benefits.

Bringing forward the electrification of the North Trans-Pennine route from Manchester to York via Leeds, which will deliver significant carbon savings as well as reliability and journey time benefits.

Supporting low-carbon rail freight by making it easier to get new rail freight terminals built, and providing an additional £55 million to improve rail connectivity to Felixstowe Port.

Launching a third round of the Green Bus Fund, under which up to a further £25 million is being made available for the purchase of low carbon emission buses.

Announcing a new £8 million green truck fund to pump prime investment in low emission HGVs and their supporting infrastructure.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Civil Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83891]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In the last five years the Department for International Development (DFID) has had no legal proceedings brought against it by organisations receiving DFID funding.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85660]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development is taking a number of steps to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned:

An action plan for small and medium-sized enterprises has been developed;

Our support for the Greening Government sustainable procurement targets;

Business cases for the procurement of services include an assessment of social impact;

All tenders state DFID's wish to work with suppliers who demonstrate Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by taking account of economic, social and environmental factors that are in compliance with International Labour Organisation (ILO) core standards on labour and social matters.

Ethiopia: Politics and Government

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of aid on standards of governance in Ethiopia. [85264]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Ethiopia has a capable government that is demonstrably committed to addressing poverty. It has an impressive record of pro-poor spending and sound financial management.

Development assistance to Ethiopia has had a notably positive impact on standards of governance in Ethiopia. For instance, in the four years to 2010, support from international partners has helped deliver a threefold increase in tax revenues; dramatic increases in the efficiency of regional and federal courts and a 50% reduction in delivery times for a range of basic services. Development

assistance has also trained and equipped the Ombudsman, Anti-Corruption Commission, Houses of Parliament, Office of the Auditor General and other institutions that play an increasingly important role in ensuring the Government remain accountable to their citizens.

EU Aid: Family Planning

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to encourage his EU counterparts to increase aid for family planning above 0.4 per cent. of the total EU aid budget. [85518]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government are working closely with member states and the European Commission to increase EU support for family planning. We know that 215 million women in the developing world, who would like to delay or avoid a pregnancy, do not have access to modern family planning methods.

In November 2010, the EU pledged €23 million to the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA's) Global Programme for Reproductive Health Commodity Security (GPRHCS).

Last week, the coalition Government announced additional support for contraceptive supplies to this programme, to help prevent 2 million unintended pregnancies and avert nearly 220,000 unsafe abortions.

Tristan da Cunha

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to visit Tristan da Cunha. [84589]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: No.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many individuals attached to UK military operations in Afghanistan are employed through private contractors; what proportion of UK military staff in Afghanistan this represents; and if he will make a statement. [85089]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence employs around 5,200 individuals in Afghanistan through private contractors, with around a further 1,000 directly-employed local people. These work directly and indirectly in support of operations but none is employed in a combat role. UK force levels in Afghanistan are currently 9,500. Contractors and locally employed civilians play an important and valued role in the operation, undertaking roles that are more economically or appropriately undertaken by contracted personnel. We keep under review the roles they play and the scale of contracted effort in the light of the evolving operation.

Armed Forces: Education

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average expenditure per recruit on academic education and non-military related training is for recruits at *(a)* the Army Foundation College Harrogate and *(b)* the Army Technical Foundation College Winchester. [85333]

Nick Harvey: The average amount spent on academic education and non-military training at the Army Foundation College Harrogate, based on the last completed course (September 2010 to August 2011), was £3,650 per successful recruit.

Comparable figures for the Army Technical Foundation College Winchester are not held in the format requested but the total average expenditure for all training provided at this college, including military training, was £5,650 per successful recruit over the same period.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of recruits enlisting in the Armed Forces aged 18 years or younger attended the Army Technical Foundation College Winchester in the latest period for which figures are available. [85334]

Nick Harvey: The Army Technical Foundation College Winchester was established in September 2010 to deliver phase 1 training to junior soldiers aspiring to join the Technical Corps in the Army.

Between the period 1 September 2010 to 30 September 2011 a total of 3,745 under-18s commenced phase 1 training with the Army, of which 950 (25.4%) attended the Army Technical Foundation College Winchester.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of staff at *(a)* the Army Foundation College Harrogate and *(b)* the Army Technical Foundation College Westminster have Qualified Teacher Status or Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills Status. [85335]

Nick Harvey: There are 379 military and civilian staff employed at the Army Foundation College Harrogate involved in the delivery of training to junior soldiers. 42 civilian staff provide vocational education in functional skills for mathematics, English and IT. All 42 have qualified teacher status. There are also nine military education and training Service officers who are fully qualified teachers.

I assume the hon. Member is referring to the Army Technical Foundation College Winchester, where there are 150 military and civilian staff involved in the delivery of training to junior soldiers. There are four civilian teachers providing the academic foundation required for recruits to succeed at their chosen trades in phase 2 training, all of whom either hold the qualified teacher learning and skills status or are working towards it. There are also three military education and training Service officers who are fully qualified teachers.

Armed Forces: Germany

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 819-20W, on Armed Forces: Germany, what recent discussions officials in his Department have had with local authorities on the basing and estates issues arising from the rebasing from Germany; and whether any local authorities have requested additional funding as a consequence of such rebasing. [85570]

Nick Harvey: Preliminary discussions have taken place with a number of local authorities affected by the rebasing from Germany. It is too early at this time to comment on specific issues.

As of 6 December 2011, the Ministry of Defence was not aware of any local authorities requesting additional funding.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel and their families are waiting for married quarters accommodation in the greater Portsmouth area. [85237]

Mr Robathan: There are no service personnel families waiting for service family accommodation in the greater Portsmouth area.

However, as part of the normal cyclic housing accommodation, 16 families have applied for accommodation in the Portsmouth area and these families will be allocated a home within the standard 15 days.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many married quarters in *(a)* Fareham, *(b)* Gosport and *(c)* Portsmouth were handed back to Annington Homes in each of the last five years. [85238]

Mr Robathan: The number of service family accommodation properties in Fareham, Gosport and Portsmouth handed back to Annington Homes Ltd are shown in the following table:

	Fareham	*Gosport*	*Portsmouth*
2007	0	0	0
2008	0	0	1
2009	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0
2011	0	85	0

Defence

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the defence estate and *(b)* military industry in (i) Scotland and (ii) the UK. [83349]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) keeps its estate under constant review to meet present and planned future requirements. Surplus assets are disposed of as quickly as possible in accordance with Treasury guidelines. The outcome of the Department's basing review, announced by the previous Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox) on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-45, confirmed our intent to continue to drive efficiencies across the whole of the estate.

Scottish industries, like those across the UK, play a vital role in ensuring our armed forces are equipped with the capabilities they require at reasonable cost to the UK taxpayer.

Departmental Civil Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83884]

Mr Robathan: There have been no occasions since 2007 when the Ministry of Defence (MOD) was involved in legal proceedings with an organisation that received funding from the MOD.

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84175]

Mr Robathan: Communicators are employed across defence and the armed forces. They have an important task in explaining to the public, the media, our own people and other audiences—at the local regional, national and international levels—the role of defence, defence activities, capabilities and operations. The main effort for defence communicators at present is explaining our mission in Afghanistan.

The latest figures for the numbers involved in communications roles as at 31 March 2011 are shown in the following table, and include all posts for which over 50% of the post's core duties are communications:

	MOD/armed forces	*Trading funds*[1]	*Non-departmental public bodies*
Press Officers	108	6	0
Internal Communications Officers	39	4	0
External Communications Officers	334	20	2
Communications Strategy Officers	62	5	1
Other	106	4	0

[1] As at 31 March 2011. Includes 27 full time posts in the Met Office which has since transferred to the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

These figures include both military and civilian posts worldwide. They represent a reduction of over 60 communications posts compared with 31 March 2010. Further savings have been made across the communications area during the course of the current financial year and more substantial reductions are planned for future years.

Procurement

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of contracts awarded through the framework agreement technical support process have been internally audited in the last 12 months. [82056]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 23 November 2011]:* A Defence Internal Audit report published in November 2011 reviewed the Framework Agreement for Technical Support (FATS) for the period from April 2009 to March 2011. Of 2,580 tasks placed through FATS during this period, a sample of 42 (1.5%) was considered.

Departmental Property

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's properties are occupied in *(a)* Portsmouth, *(b)* Fareham and *(c)* Gosport. [85236]

Mr Robathan: The number of properties occupied in Portsmouth, Fareham and Gosport as of 1 November 2011 is shown in the following table:

	Number
Gosport	940
Fareham	401
Portsmouth area	1,431

Ex-servicemen: Employment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the effect of service in the armed forces on *(a)* employability and *(b)* employment retention of veterans. [83823]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 29 November 2011]:* Approximately 95% of service leavers succeed in gaining employment within six months of discharge. This is clear evidence that employers value the unique skills, experiences and sense of reliability and discipline which military life has instilled into service leavers.

HMS Protector

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total monetary cost was of HMS Protector from acquisition to operational readiness. [85235]

Peter Luff: I am pleased to confirm that as scheduled HMS Protector left Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth, to commence her first Antarctic deployment, on 28 November 2011.

The contract for the lease of HMS Protector, which commenced in March of this year and is worth £26 million over three years, includes the acquisition of the vessel and full contractor support. The Ministry of Defence spent a further £3.7 million converting HMS Protector for military use. It is not possible to separately identify other operating costs during her conversion period, such as the fuel used to conduct her sea trials or her crew training.

Joint Exercises: Costs

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the UK's participation in Exercise Bersama Lima. [81100]

Nick Harvey: The UK played an important and substantial part in Exercise Bersama Lima, a Five Power Defence Arrangements joint exercise held in Singapore and Malaysia from 17 October to 4 November 2011. Four RAF Typhoons, one RAF VC-10, two contracted DA-20 aircraft and approximately 150 UK personnel participated in the Exercise. The total cost is estimated at £3.13 million, although this is subject to change as the recovery of RAF aircraft and personnel is not yet complete. This figure does not include the costs of manpower or the separately funded flying hours for the RAF aircraft.

Membership of the Five Power Defence Arrangements, which recently commemorated its fortieth anniversary, remains the focus of the Ministry of Defence's engagement in south east Asia. This demonstrates the UK's continuing commitment to security in south east Asia and the wider region, which is an increasingly important part of the world, and provides regular and beneficial opportunities for joint exercises with Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore. The exercise also provided an opportunity to showcase the Typhoon export campaign in the region.

Military Bases: Planning Permission

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of the sites owned by his Department and earmarked for housing development as indicated in the written ministerial statement of 21 November 2011 on housing reform have existing planning permission. [R] [84359]

Mr Robathan: As part of the Government's overall housing plan, the Ministry of Defence published its Interim Land and Property Disposal Strategy on 5 October 2011, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, and at the following web address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/MicroSite/DIO/OurPublications/CorporateInformation/DefenceInfrastructureInterimLandAndPropertyDisposalStrategy.htm

The document contains an indicative disposal programme and, where appropriate, the current planning status on those sites.

Military Provost Guard Service

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the strength of the Military Provost Guard Service in relation to its responsibilities. [80392]

Mr Robathan: The current strength of the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) is around 2,550, against a current requirement for 3,214. Recruitment action is being taken to reduce the shortfall. Guarding requirements are kept under constant review and capability gaps are covered, where necessary, by regular service personnel.

RAF St Athan: Airlines

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has considered the merits of allowing the use of RAF St Athan by private airlines; and if he will make a statement. [84714]

Mr Robathan: An arrangement has existed since 2004 whereby parts of St Athan are used for maintenance and repair of civilian aircraft. This has been promoted by the Welsh Government.

JUSTICE

Alternatives to Prison

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Tooting (Sadiq Khan) of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 112W, on young offenders: alternatives to prison, if he will commission an outcomes evaluation of the Intensive Alternative to Custody pilots. [85472]

Mr Blunt: The MOJ is currently looking at the feasibility of conducting an outcome evaluation of the IAC pilots which would compare reoffending rates for IAC offenders with reoffending rates for similar offenders receiving custodial sentences of less than 12 months. Due to the small number of offenders, there is no intention to disaggregate data for young adults from the other adults that took part in the pilots.

In July 2011, the MOJ published a short report with the main findings from a range of research exploring the learning from the Intensive Alternatives to Custody (IAC) pilot schemes:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research-and-analysis/moj/intensive-alternatives-custody.htm

The process evaluations covering the seven IAC pilot sites are currently being concluded and will be published in due course.

Children: Abduction

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to bring forward proposals to change the offence of a parent taking and keeping a child abroad for over 30 days without permission of the other parent from a civil to a criminal offence. [84093]

Mr Djanogly: There are no such plans. The wrongful retention of a child away from the United Kingdom is already a criminal offence under the Child Abduction Act 1984. Where a residence order under the Children Act 1989 is in force with respect to a child, that child cannot be removed from the UK without either the written consent of every person with parental responsibility for the child or the leave of the court. However, the person in whose favour the residence order for a child was made may remove the child from the UK for a period of less than one month.

Where a person is accused or convicted of an offence of wrongfully retaining a child abroad, it may be possible for the UK to seek their extradition from the country where they are living, although this will not secure the return of the child.

However, where wrongful removal or wrongful retention of the child abroad is in a country which is a contracting state to the 1980 Hague convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction, the left-behind parent can apply under the convention for the return of the child. This is a summary procedure designed to seek the prompt return of the child to their country of habitual residence. In non-convention countries the Foreign and Commonwealth Office may be able to provide consular assistance.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85642]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Internal Audit and Assurance annual audit programme covering *(a)* MOJ core and *(b)* the agencies and other arm's length bodies (ALBs) is based on an assessment of audit need which includes those systems which underpin the key risks to the Ministry as well as systems which, although not linked to the key risks could expose the Ministry to reputational risks. The decision on the frequency of audit is based on the level of risk attached to a system, an analysis of previous audit results and the extent and results of any other independent review activity taking place. The final programme of audits is agreed with senior management and the Audit Committee, which is comprised of three non-executive directors (one of whom is the Chair) and an independent member.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85053]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The proportion of written questions asked of my Department for answer on a named day that received answers within five working days is as follows:

June 2011: 93.1%

July 2011: 98.4%

August 2011: No relevant questions were tabled

September 2011: 95.3%

October 2011: 98.3%

November 2011: 95.3%.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Prisoners' Release: Sexual Offences

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sex offenders were released after being found guilty but were released due to time served on remand. [85204]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants found guilty of sexual offences at all courts in England and Wales from 2006 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table. Data are not held centrally on how many of these defendants had already served their sentence on remand.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring 2012.

Number of defendants found guilty of sexual offences and sentenced to immediate custody, at all courts, England and Wales, 2006 to 2010[1,2]

	2006		2007		2008[3]		2009		2010	
Offence type	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Sexual offences	4,890	2,806	5,059	2,807	5,116	3,000	5,107	2,987	5,784	3,287

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Prisons: Postal Services

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many instances there have been where prisoners have received compensation in relation to cases concerning Rule 39 items of post being interfered with by prison staff; and what the total amount paid was. [85202]

Mr Blunt: Prison Rule 39 provides the authority for prison governors to stop and open written correspondence which is subject to legal privilege. This is only done where there is reasonable cause to believe it contains an illegal item which it is believed could endanger prison security, or the safety of others, or which is illegal. If a prisoner feels that their correspondence has been opened improperly, they may seek compensation through internal complaints procedures, correspondence, civil litigation and through the parliamentary ombudsman and the prisons and probation ombudsman. To provide the information requested would require collection of data from each prison and across NOMS headquarters. This could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Reoffenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders have been convicted of offences whilst subject to a community order in each of the last five years; and how many such offences were of a *(a)* violent and *(b)* sexual nature. [85205]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 shows the proven reoffending rates for adults (aged 18 or over) commencing a community order who committed a proven reoffence within a year for the last five years for which figures are available. Table 2 shows for the last five years for which figures are available how many of these reoffences were violent or sexual.

Table 1: Reoffending rates of adult offenders who had commenced a community order, 2005-09

	Reoffending rates
2005	37.7
2006	36.5
2007	36.6
2008	36.7
2009	35.6

Table 2: Number of reoffences that were violent or sexual, 2005-09

	Number
2005	
Sexual	174
Sex (child)	50
Violence non-serious	7,078
Violence serious	222
2006	
Sexual	390
Sex (child)	96
Violence non-serious	15,653
Violence serious	508
2007	
Sexual	473
Sex (child)	139
Violence non-serious	16,898
Violence serious	529
2008	
Sexual	439
Sex (child)	182
Violence non-serious	17,011
Violence serious	557
2009	
Sexual	518
Sex (child)	172
Violence non-serious	16,879
Violence serious	564

Proven reoffending is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period and receiving a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning either during the follow-up period or during a further six months allowed for cases to be proven. The sharp increase in numbers between 2005 and 2006 reflects the fact that these orders were introduced for offences committed after 4 April 2005.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to encourage EU and African groups at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to *(a)* consider the links between population growth, carbon emissions and adaptation problems and *(b)* invest climate funds in family planning and women's education and empowerment programmes. [85516]

Gregory Barker: The UK and EU are open to discussing the linkages between mitigation, adaptation, family planning and women's education and climate finance under the UNFCCC framework.

Responding to the unmet need for family planning and improving maternal health are major development priorities for the coalition Government. The UK is already investing heavily in family planning and women's education and empowerment programmes from Official Development Assistance outside our International Climate Fund.

The UK has committed to prevent more than five million unintended pregnancies by enabling at least 10 million more women in developing countries to use modern methods of family planning by 2015, The UK will work to get more girls in developing countries into the classroom, making sure that at least half of the nine million primary school children we will get into school over the next four years are female.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85636]

Gregory Barker: Internal Audit in the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) provide the internal audit function to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). DECC does not have any executive agencies.

Internal audits are undertaken in DECC as part of agreed annual audit plans which cover the duration of each financial year. The plans include a number of internal audits which form a core package of control and compliance work. This is necessary to provide adequate coverage to enable Internal Audit to provide assurance to the Accounting Officers at year end about the effectiveness of the internal control environment and to support the preparation of Governance Statements.

Internal Audit also identifies a programme of risk based work. This part of the audit plans is developed over the course of the year, dependent on the Department's priorities, the evolution of the risk environment and the emergence of entirely new risks. The audit plans list risk-based reviews to ensure that current risk areas, as identified through discussion with senior management and a review of the Department's high level risk registers, are addressed. The audit plans also contain a flexible allowance for timely audit response to changes in the risk profile and developments in DECC.

The audit plans are subject to approval by the DECC Audit and Risk Committees.

Internal Audit holds discussions with Directors-General and Directors throughout the year and updates the audit plans where necessary. The Audit and Risk Committees are provided with proposed revisions to the annual plans as appropriate.

The timing of the internal audit reviews carried out by Internal Audit is determined by a number of factors, including: discussions with senior management and members of the Audit and Risk Committees; discussion with the National Audit Office to align with their programmes of work; and timing based on previous year's plans.

Departmental Civil Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83886]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not maintain a central record of legal proceedings brought against it, and it would not be possible to compile a historical record without incurring disproportionate cost. In researching the answer to your question, my Department has not identified any case where an organisation funded by the Department has brought legal proceedings against it.

Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on *(a)* the recovery of legal costs from failed applicants for judicial review and *(b)* enforcement of any such recovery; and whether any exceptions apply. [83911]

Gregory Barker: The presumption is that the Department will seek to recover its costs, except where that would not be appropriate, such as where costs are unlikely to be recoverable. Enforcement action would also be taken where appropriate.

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [85703]

Gregory Barker: All of DECC's Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies hold risk registers. Each of the bodies has set out their approach to risk management in the Statement on Internal Control in their respective Annual Report and Accounts.

DECC's Advisory Non-Departmental Bodies do not hold their own risk registers. Their function is to provide independent scrutiny and advice to Government. This scrutiny includes seeking assurance that DECC's programmes falling within their remit, are underpinned by appropriate risk management.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85927]

Gregory Barker: During the period 18 May 2010 to 30 November 2011 a total of 2,844 ordinary written questions were tabled to the Department.

Total answered: 2,821.

Unanswered questions: 23.

Questions answered within five sitting days: 2,387 (84%).

Answered over five sitting days: 434 (15%); of these 57 (13%) were answered over 10 days but under 20 sitting days.

No questions were answered beyond 20, 30 or more sitting days.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide this information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Electricity

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002, what steps he has taken to enforce the continuity and quality of electricity supply. [84592]

Charles Hendry: Action can be taken under regulation 34 of the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 (ESQCR) to enforce continuity and quality of electricity supply. Electricity transmission and distribution companies have a statutory duty to report certain interruptions to supply under regulation 32 of the ESQCR, as follows:

Interruptions of 20 MW or more for three minutes or longer.

Interruptions of 5 MW or more for one hour or longer.

Interruptions of 5,000 consumers or more for one hour or longer.

Inspectors appointed under section 30 of the Electricity Act 1989 have powers to test, investigate or examine equipment to ascertain whether a breach of these regulations may have occurred.

Electricity Generation

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of energy lost through the transmission network in the latest period for which figures are available. [83039]

Charles Hendry: DECC estimates that approximately 1.6% of the electricity put on to the transmission network was lost in 2010, which amounts to 6.0 terawatt hours (TWh). Losses for the distribution network in 2010 account for 6.2% (21 TWh) of electricity available for distribution. These estimates are derived from data set out in The Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2011, which notes that UK transmission losses in 2010 were approximately 22% of total UK losses of 27 TWh. This publication is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/dukes/dukes.aspx

Transmission losses have a cost of approximately £225 million per annum, which is recovered from generators and suppliers.

National Grid, as the system operator of the transmission system, and the distribution network operators are incentivised to minimise transmission and distribution losses respectively through reward or penalty payments based on performance against targets set by Ofgem, in its role as independent energy regulator.

Energy: Housing

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many houses in England he estimates meet an energy efficiency rating of *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C, *(d)* D, *(e)* E, *(f)* F and *(g)* G. [83048]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

Energy efficiency ratings are not available for all homes in England. Information contained in the total number of certificates relating to homes in England that had been lodged on the Register of Energy Performance Certificates, up to and including 24 November 2011, it is estimated that the number of houses in England that achieve energy performance ratings of A, B, C, D, E, F and G is as follows:

Energy Performance Rating Band	*Number of EPCs*
A	1,505
B	204,798
C	925,671
D	1,546,241
E	923,229
F	280,043
G	79,077
Total	3,960,564

The estimated total of 15.97 million houses in England is taken from English Housing Survey data from 2009, and published in July 2011. The number of certificates relates to the number of Energy Performance Certificates lodged on the Certificate Register for houses in England as opposed to other types of dwelling (e.g. flat or maisonette), up to and including 24 November 2011.

Green Deal Scheme

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish his proposals for the allocation of funding for early uptake of the Green Deal in its initial phase in 2012-13 and 2013-14. [85485]

Gregory Barker: The Government announced £200 million of new funding to provide a time limited introductory offer to boost early take up of the Green Deal.

The Department will develop options for how best to use these funds over the winter, and will provide further details on our proposals next year.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) with reference to the National Infrastructure Plan, what discussions he has had with

his ministerial colleagues in *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* the Department for Communities and Local Government on the potential benefits to communities of new nuclear build; [85274]

(2) if he will set up a cross-departmental task group including *(a)* his Department, *(b)* HM Treasury, *(b)* the Department for Communities and Local Government and *(d)* the Welsh Government to discuss the provision of community benefits of new nuclear build; [85275]

(3) how he plans to engage with *(a)* developers and *(b)* local authorities on the potential benefits to communities of new nuclear build. [85276]

Charles Hendry: The National Infrastructure Plan identifies community benefit as an area where action by Government might help meet reasonable community aspirations in areas where new nuclear development is proposed without adding excessive costs to investment. This followed discussions with HM Treasury and the Department for Communities and Local Government. In taking this issue forward, the Department will continue to engage with interested Government Departments and other bodies and with developers and local authorities to establish how this can be achieved.

Scottish Government

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when officials of his Department last met officials of the Scottish Government; and what was discussed. [84697]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The Department holds frequent meetings with officials from the Scottish Government to discuss a range of issues. The last meeting was held on 29 November where the Electricity Market Reform proposals were discussed.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to his answer of 24 November 2011, official report, column 474, on renewable energy: feed-in tariff, what the average payment to households who had installed solar PV under the feed-in tariff scheme was between April 2010 and October 2011. [83928]

Gregory Barker: For the 18,073 domestic (<4kW) installations in the 2010-11 period Ofgem estimate that total generation payments of £5,919,525.48 and export payments of £209,752.80 were made. These figures are based on the total number of installations registered over the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 only, as tariff information is supplied annually.

Ofgem does not (and is not required to) collect data on individual payments under the feed-in tariffs scheme.

Warm Home Discount Scheme

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what changes he is considering to support provided to pensioners through the Warm Home Discount scheme; and if he will make a statement. [85887]

Gregory Barker: Help for pensioners is a key part of the Warm Home Discount scheme. This winter more than 600,000 of the poorest pensioners will receive a Core Group discount of £120 on their electricity bills.

As set out in the Disclosure of State Pension Credit Information (Warm Home Discount) Regulations 2011 and the Warm Home Discount Regulations 2011 respectively, eligibility for the Core Group discount and the amount of rebate payable are shown in the following table for all four years of the scheme.

	Eligibility for the Core Group discount	*Amount of rebate (£)*
2011-12	In receipt of pension credit guarantee credit only	120
2012-13	In receipt of pension credit guarantee credit only, or aged 80 and over and in receipt of both pension credit guarantee/savings credit	130
2013-14	In receipt of pension credit guarantee credit only, or aged 75 and over and in receipt of both pension credit guarantee/savings credit	135
2014-15	All in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit	140

Additionally, to receive the discount the pension credit recipient or their partner must be the named bill payer on their electricity account with one of the six major energy suppliers.

Other low income pensioners may also be able to benefit from the same discounts as listed above on electricity accounts through the support offered by energy suppliers under the Broader Group element of the Warm Home Discount scheme. Pensioners are also among those who will be assisted by suppliers this year through the scheme under the transitional arrangements from the previous voluntary agreement.

Currently, no changes are being considered for the scheme, but we will keep this under review.

EDUCATION

Academies

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether Academies are able to sell assets such as land. [84447]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* The Funding Agreements with Academies include a requirement that they cannot dispose of assets such as land without first seeking the consent of the Secretary of State for Education. In seeking such consent, the Academy Trust would be required to make a business case setting out the reasons for the sale, and the way in which any proceeds will be spent. For example, Academy Trusts and Foundation bodies that hold land for Academies which has been either provided or enhanced at public

expense can propose the disposal of that land, where it is in the interests of the education they provide. Requests for consent are currently dealt with by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA).

Children's Centres: Finance

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education from what date local authorities will be required to provide information about expenditure on children's centres; where such information will be published; and whether such a requirement will take the form of statutory guidance. [82627]

Sarah Teather: This is the first year the Department has collected and published the expenditure by local authorities on children's centres. Local authorities are required under section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 to prepare and submit an education and children's social care budget statement by 31 March each year and this commenced in March 2011 That legislation also requires local authorities to publish the information locally . It must be made available on a website maintained by the local authority and accessible to the public.

Departmental Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by his Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80711]

Tim Loughton: We do not hold centrally the information requested. A search and analysis of all records of judicial reviews brought over the past six years would involve disproportionate cost. However, we have the following figures for how much the Department for Education, and its predecessors, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Education and Skills, have paid to the Treasury Solicitor's Department, whom we instruct in most litigation cases, for litigation lawyers' fees and disbursements in judicial review proceedings in each financial year since 1 April 2005. This does not include amounts that may have been paid by the Department for Education and its predecessors in costs or damages to the other side in the litigation. Nor does it include the cost of departmental lawyers' time or of other departmental officials.

2005-06: Department for Education and Skills: £57,223

2006-07: Department for Education and Skills: £228,003

2007-08: Department for Education and Skills (to June 2007); Department for Children, Schools and Families (from June 2007): £252,035

2008-09: Department for Children, Schools and Families: £277,102

2009-10: Department for Children, Schools and Families: £361,080

2010-11: Department for Children, Schools and Families (to May 2010); Department for Education (from May 2010): £253,829

2011-12 (to 25 November 2011): Department for Education: £258,927.

Design and Technology

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of children studying Design and Technology in *(a)* Sefton and *(b)* England in each of the years 2010-11 to 2014-15. [84953]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* We have not made any estimate of the number of students who will study design and technology and related subjects in each of the years 2010-11 to 2014-15. In academic year 2010/11 14,871 pupils were entered for design and technology A Level, and 226,400 pupils were entered for GCSE, in schools in England. In Sefton 54 pupils were entered for A Level in design and technology. We do not have the corresponding number for pupils entered for design and technology GCSE in Sefton.

British Overseas Territories: Students

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on programmes to educate school students about the British Overseas Territories. [84583]

Mr Gibb: Students are taught about British Overseas Territories as part of the history curriculum, and this topic can also be studied as part of geography.

The Government believe that the existing history curriculum does not ensure that children and young people are able to gain a secure knowledge and shared knowledge of British history or the key events in world history. We are currently conducting a review of the national curriculum with the aim of reducing prescription and focusing on the essential knowledge that all children should acquire.

Design and Technology

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of students who will study design and technology and related subjects in each of the next 10 years. [84149]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* We have not made any estimate of the number of students who will study design and technology and related subjects in the next ten years. In academic year 2010/11 14,871 pupils were entered for design and technology A-level, and 226,400 pupils were entered for GCSE, in schools in England.

Education: Young Mothers

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of mothers aged 16 to 19 were in education, employment or training on the latest date for which figures are available. [84618]

Tim Loughton: Latest estimates from the Labour Force Survey show that 28.6% of teenage mothers aged 16 to 19 were in education, employment or training in 2010. The proportion of teenage mothers who are in education, employment or training has remained fairly stable since 1998.

Music: Education

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the National Music Plan, what assessment he has made of the potential effects of reductions in local government funding on the provision of music education in schools. [84529]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* In the current financial climate it is important that public funding is used effectively. We are allocating significant public expenditure to music education because we are determined that every child should have access to a high quality music education, not only those from families that can afford to pay for private lessons. Primary responsibility for music education has always and will continue to be the responsibility of schools, in delivering the music curriculum. In practice, that role has been supported by a mixed economy, with contributions from central Government, local government, schools, parents, community and charitable music organisations and the lottery.

The new National Plan for Music Education, published on Friday 25 November, sets out Department for Education future funding allocations and a new funding mechanism from 2012-13. We are moving toward a per-pupil national funding formula that will turn around the historical imbalance in funding for music services between areas, with transitional protection to guard against large losses in any one area.

Local authority funding for music education is clearly a matter for local authorities, but very much hope that they will want to support us in improving the quality of all pupils' music education.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department has allocated for the provision of music education in the next three years by local authority area; and how much funding for such purposes was allocated in the last five years. [84556]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The table shows the Music Standards Fund allocations for music education for all local authorities in England from 2006-11 and the funding allocations for music education in local authorities in 2011-15. Detailed funding for individual local authority areas from April 2012 to March 2015 were published alongside the new National Plan for Music Education, published on 25 November. This is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/curriculum/subjects/a00200352/national-plan-for-music-education

Details of funding for 2011-12 were published by the Federation of Music Services and are available at:

www.thefms.org/the-fem/professional/funding

We shall place copies of individual local authority allocations from 2006-07 to 2010-11 in the House Libraries.

The National Plan for Music Education sets out future funding allocations and a new funding mechanism from 2012-13. We are moving toward a per-pupil national funding formula that will turn around the historical imbalance in funding for music services between areas, with transitional protection to guard against large losses in any one area.

	£
2006-07	64,053,456
2007-08	82,562,725
2008-09	82,562,467
2009-10	82,562,467
2010-11	82,562,467
2011-12	[1]77,000,000
2012-13	[2]75,000,000
2013-14	[2]63,000,000
2014-15	[2]58,000,000

[1] Music Education Grant.
[2] Music Education Hubs.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department has allocated to local authorities for the purchase of musical instruments in the next three years by local authority area. [84557]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The Department does not allocate funding amounts for the purchase of musical instruments. It is for local authorities to decide how they allocate their budget for music education.

Providing instrumental tuition and progression routes for those wishing to develop their skills are two of four 'core' services that music education hubs will be required to make available to pupils from September 2012. The Federation of Music Services is currently undertaking an audit of instrument purchases so that the new hubs will have a basis from which to plan future expenditure. As part of their contribution to the National Plan, Arts Council England have agreed to extend their 'Take it Away' scheme which provides interest free loans via retailers for the purchase of instruments for 18 to 25-year-olds, to five to 18-year-olds. This will make the purchase of instruments financially easier for parents/carers.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to ensure that music teachers are engaged in the implementation and delivery of the National Plan for Music Education. [84634]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The National Plan for Music Education recognises that music education takes place primarily in schools, and that schools are responsible for delivering the music curriculum; and that within schools, music teachers have a fundamental role to play. The National Plan for Music Education responds to the findings by Darren Henley that teachers in primary schools need specialist support to teach music, while those in secondary schools can feel isolated.

Music education hubs will be funded in such a way that will reward partnerships between local authorities and local music organisations. Together these partnerships will open up new networks of music educators, all working to ensure every child has a high-quality music

education, including the opportunity to learn to sing, to play an instrument and to play music with others. Finally, the plan announces that a new music teaching module is being developed, to develop teachers' skills in teaching music, and to help them understand the context within which they work in music education hubs.

Schools: Admissions

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average number of pupils was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [82482]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* The requested information is shown in the following table:

State-funded primary and secondary schools[1,2,3]: Average number of pupils[4]—England, January 2002-11

	State-funded primary schools[1,2]	*State-funded secondary schools[1,3]*
2002	243	945
2003	241	964
2004	240	976
2005	238	980
2006	237	983
2007	237	978
2008	238	974
2009	239	975
2010	241	984
2011	245	986

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes primary academies.
[3] Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies (including all-through academies).
[4] Number (headcount) of sole and dual main registered pupils divided by the number of schools.
Source:
School Census

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to amend the Admissions Code to control the number of lone European Economic Area children studying in the UK. [84871]

Mr Gibb: On 1 December, the new School Admissions and Appeals Codes were laid before Parliament. Subject to the approval of Parliament, these codes will come into force on 1 February 2012. The School Admissions Code makes clear that all admission authorities must treat applications, for children coming from overseas, in accordance with European Community law. Where the provisions of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 are satisfied, nationals of the European Economic Area and their children of any age, who come to the UK lawfully to work, or for certain other economic purposes, have a right to reside in the UK. They enjoy the same rights to education as British citizens. This right also applies to EEA national children who come to study in the UK, but are not accompanied by their parents. Non-EEA children of EEA parents, who are not accompanied by their parents, do not have this right.

Schools: History Teaching

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether there are any subjects in British history which his Department directs schools not to teach. [84732]

Mr Gibb: Schools are currently required to follow a programme of study for teaching history, but there are no subjects in British history that the Department has directed schools not to teach.

The Government believe that the existing history curriculum does not ensure that children and young people are able to gain a secure knowledge and shared knowledge of British history or the key events in world history. We are conducting a review of the national curriculum with the aim of reducing prescription and focusing on the essential knowledge that all children should acquire.

Schools: Inspections

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of parent consultations on Ofsted inspections. [83362]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Miriam Rosen, has written to my hon. Friend, and a copy of her response has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Miriam Rosen, dated 28 November 2011:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 section 117 (1) requires Ofsted to carry out its functions in ways which encourage the services we inspect and regulate to be user-focused. In addition, section 117 (2) also requires Ofsted to have regard to the views expressed by relevant persons about the services we inspect. In fulfilling these requirements Ofsted is committed to ensuring that the views of parents and carers are taken into account when deciding how and when to inspect. In addition, Ofsted engages with parents and carers during inspections in order to take their views into consideration and help inform the judgements made by inspectors. This includes, for example, Ofsted's inspections of childcare and early education as well as those of schools.

Under section 7 of the Education Act 2005 the Chief Inspector has a specific duty to have regard to any views expressed by the parents of registered pupils during inspections of maintained schools. Parents are contacted by letter and asked to inform the inspection team of their views about the school. They can inform inspectors in a variety of ways, including a confidential parents' and carers' questionnaire. Inspectors take these comments and responses into account as they carry out the inspection. In 2010/11 Ofsted received responses from parents or carers of over one-quarter of the pupils in the schools inspected.

Our analysis shows that overall; parents remain very positive about the quality of education that their child receives. An analysis of 315,182 parental questionnaires returned from 3,679 inspections carried out in 2010/11 shows that 94% of the parents who responded were positive overall about their child's schooling. These results are consistent with the previous year, when 93% expressed a positive opinion overall. The lowest proportion of strongly positive comments came in response to the question, 'The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns', but even here 85% of parents either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement. For the most part, parents who responded to the questionnaire are positive about how schools manage behaviour. As one might expect, this figure varies according to the overall quality of behaviour at the school. Parents in schools where behaviour was judged inadequate or satisfactory are three times more likely to think that the school does not deal effectively with poor behaviour than parents in schools where behaviour was judged outstanding.

The new framework for the inspection of maintained schools and academies from January 2012 places a strong focus on the views of pupils, parents and staff. In addition, Ofsted recently introduced Parent View, an online questionnaire that will—for

the first time—allow parents and carers to give their views on their child's school at any time of the year. Parent View has been produced with the assistance of a panel of parents who contributed to the shaping of the questions and the way the site functions. The questionnaires will cover a range of topics including quality of teaching, bullying and levels of homework, allowing parents to rate their child's school's approach to each issue, with a final question as to whether or not they would recommend the school to other parents. The questions were carefully chosen to ensure that they cover a range of issues which are important to parents but are equally designed to provide Ofsted with the right information to support decisions about inspection.

Ofsted also actively seeks the views of parents and carers as part of the consultation process when developing new frameworks. 615 members of the Ofsted parents' panel, an online panel of parents whose children attend maintained, schools or use registered childcare, responded to a questionnaire about the proposals.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Manufacturing

20. **Neil Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the manufacturing sector. [85415]

Mr Prisk: Despite challenging export markets UK manufacturers have responded positively. For example, exports of motor vehicles have now doubled in real terms since the first quarter of 2009.

Airports: Retail Trade

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has assessed the level of retail sales in airports *(a)* annually and *(b)* seasonally; and if he will make a statement. [85025]

Mr Prisk: Her Majesty's Government have made no estimate of the contribution of airport retail to the economy, either annually or seasonally.

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the contribution of airport retail to the economy *(a)* annually and *(b)* during Christmas; and if he will make a statement. [85027]

Mr Prisk: Her Majesty's Government have made no estimate of the contribution of airport retail to the economy, either annually or at a specific time of the year.

Apprentices

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many new apprenticeships have been started in each year since 2008-09. [83327]

Mr Hayes: I refer my hon. Friend to the response I gave on 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 844-6W.

Basic Skills

Mr Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that young people have the social and emotional skills needed in the workplace. [85409]

Mr Hayes: Young people develop the social and emotional skills they need for work, and to become adult citizens, by interacting with adults and having opportunities to take responsibility and gain real experience of the workplace. That is why we are reforming vocational education and increasing the opportunities for young people to gain work experience.

We have given Further Education colleges and providers the freedom to tailor provision to meet the needs of students, including addressing their social and emotional skills where this supports learning and progression. We also continue to fully fund training for people aged 19 to 24 to enable them to get their first full level 2 or first full level 3 qualifications and training for people who are unemployed and actively seeking work to give them the skills they need to get into work. We provide careers advice through the Next Steps, which will become part of the new National Careers Service, to help young adults understand their options and take their first steps into work.

We are expanding the number of Apprenticeship places by increasing funding for Apprenticeships in 2011-12 to over £1.4 billion, sufficient to train 360,000 apprentices. We have also committed to 40,000 incentive payments to encourage small employers to take on their first apprentice aged 16 to 24. We have launched sector-based work academies which provide a combination of training, work experience and a guaranteed job interview for people who are unemployed.

We are committed to ensuring graduates are better prepared for the workplace. All universities have published employability statements outlining how they work with their students to prepare them for employment. From September 2012 higher education institutions will be required to publish information about student satisfaction, costs and student employment outcomes.

Business: Equal Opportunities

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to encourage FTSE 100 and FTSE 200 listed businesses to publish the numbers of men and women they employ. [84532]

Mr Davey: Government are currently reviewing the narrative reporting requirements placed upon businesses which includes measures to improve the disclosure of the number of women, and by default men, at various levels within individual organisations as recommended by the noble Lord Davies of Abersoch in his review of women on boards.

Copyright: Arts

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to minimise the effect on business of changes to artists' resale rights. [85414]

Mr Davey: On 2 December 2011, the Department laid Statutory Instrument 2873 which will amend the implementation of Artist's Resale Right in the UK. The instrument is intended to simplify the administration of the right, by clarifying the nationality requirements for heirs and nationals of non-EEA countries entitled to receive royalties on a reciprocal basis. These changes will come into effect on 1 January 2012. On the same date the 2001 Directive will be fully implemented in the UK, when Resale Right is extended to sales of in copyright works by qualifying deceased artists. I expect the changes made by this instrument to simplify administration of payments following that extension.

Consumer Debt

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to assist those with very high levels of personal debt in the last 12 months. [84929]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* Government are concerned about the very high levels of consumer debt that has built up the economy in recent years and the impact this can have on people's day-to-day lives.

The Face-to-Face debt advice project is funded by a £27 million grant from BIS in 2011/12, and employs around 500 specialist advisers in Citizens Advice Bureaux and other community advice services across England and Wales. Since 2006, over 470,000 individuals have been helped.

In order to place debt advice in the future on a more secure footing, the Money Advice Service has agreed to take on responsibility for the co-ordination of debt advice services from April 2012. The Money Advice Service is in the process of securing funding to continue resourcing the existing free Face-to-Face Debt Advice services after 31 March 2012, so that people in need have access to good advice.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85630]

Mr Davey: Internal Audit (IA) in the Department for Business innovation and Skills (BIS) provide the internal audit function to the Department, and 10 of the 61 non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) the Department is responsible for. These are:

ACAS
Capital for Enterprise
Central Arbitration Committee/Certification Office
Competition Appeal Tribunal
Competition Commission
Competition Service
Local Better Regulation Office
Low Pay Commission
Office of Manpower Economics
UK Trade and Investment.

Internal audits are undertaken in the Department for Business (BIS), and those NDPBs that BIS IA provide an audit service to, as part of agreed annual audit plans necessary to provide adequate coverage to enable BIS IA to provide assurance to the Accounting Officers and to support the Governance Statements each financial year.

The plans include a number of internal audits forming core control and compliance work, together with a programme of risk based work. The control/compliance element of BIS IA audit plans is determined at the start of the year but remains flexible over the course of the year, dependent on the Department's and its client NDPBs' priorities, the evolution of the risk environment and the emergence of entirely new risks. The audit plans list risk-based reviews designed to provide assurance, where required, over key risk areas identified through discussion with senior management and a review of the Department's and the 10 client NDPBs' high level risk registers. Audit plans are subject to approval by the departmental and NDPBs' Audit and Risk Committees and are kept under regular review. The plans also contain a small flexible allowance for unplanned work allowing timely audit response to changes in the risk profile and developments in BIS, and those NDPBs that BIS IA provide an audit service to across the year.

BIS IA continues to hold discussions with Directors-General, Directors and client NDPB chief executives throughout the year and updates the audit plans were necessary. The Audit and Risk Committees are provided with proposed revisions to the annual plan as appropriate.

The timing of the internal audit reviews carried out by BIS IA is determined by a number of factors, including: discussions with senior management and members of the Audit and Risk Committees; discussion with the National Audit Office to align with their programmes of work; and timing based on previous year's plans.

The other BIS NDPBs use their own criteria for deciding what should be audited and this information is not held centrally.

Departmental Civil Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83880]

Mr Davey: According to our records, no organisations that have received funding from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills have brought legal proceedings against the Department since it was set up in June 2009.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80200]

Mr Davey: In the last full financial year, 2010/11, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) did not incur any external design costs with regard to logos, buildings or stationery. There were design costs associated with advertising and campaigns. These costs could not be disaggregated from overall totals except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on *(a)* the recovery of legal costs from failed applicants for judicial review and *(b)* enforcement of any such recovery; and whether any exceptions apply. [83916]

Mr Davey: Where the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is successful following a judicial review it will normally seek an order that costs are payable. However, the Department will make an assessment on a case to case basis as to whether securing payment will be cost effective when the costs of enforcement are taken into account.

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what receptions and events have been hosted by his Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by a third party. [84180]

Mr Davey: During the period 1 May 2010 to 30 November 2011 there were 3,973 events held by the Department in the Department's Conference Centre at its headquarters building 1 Victoria street, London. These events will include internal events with only BIS staff attending and external events where external stakeholders are invited.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85669]

Mr Davey: UK public procurement policy is to award contracts on the basis of value for money, which means the optimum combination of cost and quality over the lifetime of the project. Public sector procurers are required to assess value for money from the perspective of the contracting authority using criteria linked to the subject matter of the contract, including compliance with the published specification.

Wider socio-economic benefits that do not accrue to the contracting authority cannot be taken into account at tender evaluation stage if they do not relate to the subject matter of a contract from the point of view of the contracting authority.

Details of the steps being taken by the Department's non-departmental public bodies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Higher Education

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the British Council on the effect on the international reputation of British higher education of Government proposals to give degree awarding powers to institutions which do not carry out teaching or research. [80733]

Mr Willetts: I meet representatives of the British Council regularly to discuss higher education issues, including at the International Education Advisory Forum. I have not had any discussions with the British Council on this specific issue nor have I received any representations from them in response to the recent technical consultation "A New, Fit-for-purpose Regulatory Framework for the Higher Education Sector" which discussed these proposals.

Higher Education: Admissions

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to alter the AAB and above threshold for unrestricted recruitment of university places following the 2012-13 academic year. [85522]

Mr Willetts: The Department stated in the White Paper, "Students at the Heart of the System" that AAB represented a starting point and that it was our ambition to increase the proportion of new entrant places freed from student number controls by the end of this Parliament. We will set out our plans in due course and have asked the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to consult on future funding arrangements, including liberalising student number controls, in their forthcoming consultation on teaching funding for 2013/14 and beyond.

Insolvency: Legislation

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has any plans to review insolvency laws. [85389]

Mr Davey: We keep our insolvency laws under review and liaise regularly with interested parties on how they are working in practice and suggestions for reform.

The Government have recently published a consultation proposing reforms to the application processes for entry into bankruptcy and compulsory winding-up. Measures are also being considered that might strengthen the regulatory regime under which licensed insolvency practitioners operate.

Additionally, work is under way to modernise the procedural insolvency rules. As well as a proposed new set of those rules, amendments are being considered in a number of areas to improve clarity, transparency and accountability for creditors and other stakeholders.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 6 October 2011 with regard to Mr P Wightman. [85145]

Mr Davey: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 1007W.

National Savings and Investments: Post Offices

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with representatives of National Savings and Investments on its decision to stop selling its products through the post office network. [85156]

Mr Davey: National Savings and Investments (NS&I) is an executive agency of Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT). As such, I have had discussions with both NS&I and HMT on the provision of NS&I products through the post office network. I would also point out that Premium Bonds, by far the most popular NS&I product at post offices and accounting for 75% of all NS&I sales there, will continue to be available to buy and redeem at any post office.

Overseas Students

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the number of lone European Economic Area students studying in the UK. [84936]

Mr Willetts: There were 128,675 European Economic Area students[1] enrolled on postgraduate and undergraduate courses at UK higher education institutions in the 2009/10 academic year. The Department does not hold information on how many of these students were lone students. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

[1] Covers full-time and part-time students domiciled in European Union countries (other than the United Kingdom) and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Domicile refers to the country of a student's permanent or home address prior to entry to their course.

Planning: Sculpture

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he will review the effectiveness of the operation of legislation enshrining an artist's moral rights pertaining to site specific sculpture; and if he will make a statement. [85680]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, has no plans to conduct a review of this issue.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84179]

Mr Davey: The Department does not publish statistical information at postcode level, but uses postcode information to derive geographical data, such as region, county, local authority and parliamentary constituency, and to produce statistical maps. Postcode information is also used in the process of linking statistical datasets and is supplied to contractors for use in surveys to obtain phone numbers through data matching.

The Department provides the online BIS Assisted Area Postcode Checker which can be used to provide an indication of whether a postcode in Great Britain is an Assisted Area as defined for the 2007-13 Assisted Area Map.

Public Expenditure

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Autumn Statement 2011, column 8231, page 46, table 2.1, what spending decisions are represented by the figures of £30 million for *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* 2014-15 in line 29: Science of the table. [84768]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* This budget is allocated to support the commercialisation of new biomedical technologies, and will fund research, development and testing activities, and leverage additional private sector investment. This will seek to accelerate the commercialisation of innovative technologies from the research base to the market, for the benefit of patients. This budget will be managed by the Technology Strategy Board.

Regional Growth Fund: EU Grants and Loans

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 852W, on regional growth fund: EU grants and loans, how many of the bids to the second round of the regional growth fund (RGF) which mentioned funding from European regional development fund sources were successful in obtaining RGF funding in each region. [85310]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* Regional breakdown of the successful bids to the second round of Regional Growth Fund which mentioned funding from European regional development fund sources is as given as follows:

	Number
North-east	2
North-west	1
Yorkshire and Humber	2
West midlands	3
East midlands	2
East of England	1
South-east	0
South-west	1
London	0
National	0

Space Technology

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage sales of remote sensing services by businesses in the UK space sector. [85394]

Mr Willetts: The UK Space Agency, under my direction, is developing a UK data service to support businesses in developing new remote sensing products and services and to support their uptake by users in the public and private sectors. In addition, the agency in partnership with the Technology Strategy Board, invests in programmes supporting development of new remote sensing technologies, services and applications. The International Space Innovation Centre at Harwell, Oxfordshire provides a focus for much of this support.

The UK Space Agency is partnering with Lancaster city council and the Inshore Fisheries Authority to develop Remote Sensing applications specifically to support activities in Morecambe bay. These include monitoring the movement of channels within Morecambe bay and identifying habitats most likely to sustain shellfish beds. These are supported through the Government Information from the Space Sector (GIFTSS) programme.

Steria

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts his Department has awarded to Steria since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each contract. [85479]

Mr Davey: The Department has awarded no contracts to Steria since May 2010.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has received representations concerning *(a)* the Big Society Bank, *(b)* the Work programme and *(c)* volunteering since June 2011; and if he will make a statement. [75066]

Mr Davey: As far as I am aware the Department has not received any formal representations concerning the Big Society Bank or the Work programme since June 2011. The Department has received a small number of representations related to volunteering in that time. We welcome the creation of Big Society Capital (formerly known as the Big Society Bank) which will provide new support for organisations which invest in the social sector.

Third Sector: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding over £100,000 his Department's Finance and Commercial Directorate allocated to *(a)* the voluntary sector, *(b)* charities and *(c)* other third sector organisations in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [85688]

Mr Davey: The Department does not separately identify funding made to the voluntary sector, charities or other third sector organisations and the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Trade Unions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will commission an independent assessment of the contribution of union representatives to business performance in the public sector to include the effect of such representation on *(a)* numbers of employment tribunal cases, *(b)* the number of working days lost due to workplace injury and *(c)* the incidence of work-related illness. [85613]

Mr Davey: I have no current plans to commission an assessment of the contribution of union representatives to business performance. The following recent documents give information on the benefits to employers and for industrial relations of having workplace union representatives.

'Reps in Action'—how workplaces can gain from modern union representatives (URN 09/931) 2009

Workplace Representatives: a review of their facilities and facility time (URN 07/1464) 2010

Interships

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether he has estimated the average cost incurred per week by a person undertaking an unpaid internship in London; [84595]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people currently undertaking an internship in *(a)* the south-west, *(b)* the south-east, *(c)* London, *(d)* the east of England, *(e)* the east midlands, *(f)* the west midlands, *(g)* the north-west, *(h)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(i)* the north-east, *(j)* Scotland, *(k)* Wales and *(l)* Northern Ireland. [84596]

Mr Willetts: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 174W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any senior staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85078]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth office, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies do not make payments to individuals as a limited company in lieu of salary. All senior staff are directly employed, are paid through payroll and have deductions for income tax and national insurance contributions made at source through standard PAYE arrangements.

Press Releases

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 862W, on press releases, what representations his Department has made to those newspapers which broke the embargo by reporting the contents in detail of the speech on intelligence matters on 16 November 2011 before it was delivered. [84769]

Mr Lidington: The full text of the speech was embargoed and this was not broken.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 862W, on departmental press releases, whether a partial text of the speech was given to any media prior to 16 November 2011; whether the publication of detailed extracts from the speech which were published in newspapers on the morning of 16 November were unauthorised; and if he will make a statement. [84770]

Mr Lidington: Some elements of this speech were provided to the media in advance of delivery. As stated in my previous reply, all public statements are handled in accordance with the Ministerial Code and this was no exception.

Embassies: Festivals and Special Occasions

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many embassies and other posts held events to celebrate *(a)* St George's Day, *(b)* St Andrew's Day, *(c)* St Patrick's Day and *(d)* St David's Day in the last 12 months. [84900]

Mr Lidington: The information is not held centrally and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost. Embassies are free to arrange events to celebrate patron saints' days at their discretion.

EU Law: Czech Republic

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the proposal by the government of the Czech Republic for an amendment of the EU Treaties submitted to the President of the Council of the European Union in September 2011 in accordance with Article 48(2) of the Treaty on European Union. [85005]

Mr Lidington: The content of the draft protocol was agreed by the UK—and all other EU member states—at the October 2009 European Council. Protocol 30 on the application of the charter of fundamental rights to Poland and to the United guarantees and clarifies the way in which the charter applies. The draft Czech protocol is helpful to the UK as it makes clear that that the UK and Polish protocol on the charter of fundamental rights shall also apply to a further member state, the Czech Republic. Parliament will further scrutinise the document as the draft protocol is subject to the scrutiny of the relevant parliamentary committees under the provisions of the European Union Act 2011 before the UK can agree to ratify the protocol.

EU Law: Republic of Ireland

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the proposal by the Government of Ireland for an amendment of the EU treaties submitted to the President of the Council of the European Union in July 2011 in accordance with article 48(2) of the treaty on European Union. [85003]

Mr Lidington: The content of the draft protocol was agreed by the UK—and all other EU member states—at the June 2009 European Council. The draft Irish protocol contains clarifications in relation to the right to life, family and education; taxation; and security and defence. It is helpful to the UK as it clarifies the limitations of the Lisbon treaty in a manner which is consistent with our interpretation. Parliament will further scrutinise the document before the UK can agree to ratify the protocol as the draft protocol is subject to the scrutiny of the relevant parliamentary committees under the provisions of the European Union Act 2011.

Israel

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to encourage the British Ambassador to Israel to *(a)* visit Beer Sheva and the Bedouin villages and *(b)* meet the Negev Coexistence Forum. [85006]

Mr Bellingham: Our ambassador in Tel Aviv has visited the Negev and Beer Sheva on many occasions. He has raised UK concerns about Bedouin rights with the Israeli Government and discussed with Israeli Ministers and officials the Israeli Government's plans for the relocation of the Bedouin community and their concerns.

We remain in close touch with numerous Bedouin leaders and organisations, such as the Negev Institute for Strategies and Peace and Development. The ambassador plans to visit Bedouin villages and the Negev Coexistence Forum in the near future.

Linda Carty

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to his US counterpart on behalf of Linda Carty; and if he will make a statement. [84904]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, wrote to US Secretary of State Clinton in July and November 2010 about Ms Carty's case. Since the UK Government became aware of Ms Carty's case in 2002, officials have maintained regular contact with her, her legal team, her family and the UK non-governmental organisation Reprieve. I met with Jovelle Carty, Linda's daughter, last year. The UK Government have also made their concerns known throughout the legal process and have submitted three amicus curiae briefs to the US courts in relation to the case. The decision on Ms Carty's case is a matter for the Texan authorities. We will continue to raise Ms Carty's case, and the UK's wider opposition to the death penalty, with the Texan authorities and Federal Government.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 12 December 2011

SCOTLAND

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what criteria his Department uses when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85644]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office follows the guidance in the HM Treasury publication 'Government Internal Audit Standards'.

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what risk registers are held by the non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [85710]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office is responsible for the Boundary Commission for Scotland which has a risk register in place. In addition, regular discussions take place between my officials and Commission staff regarding the work of the Commission and other relevant matters.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [85663]

David Mundell: Other than minor or bespoke purchases, the Scotland Office does not undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises existing service contracts between suppliers and the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice.

Unemployment: Young People

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans he has to meet the Scottish Government Minister for Youth Unemployment before January 2012. [86204]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), has written to Angela Constance MSP to congratulate her upon her appointment as the new Scottish Government Minister for Youth Employment. He intends to meet Ms Constance at the earliest opportunity available to discuss how the UK and Scottish Governments will continue to work together to support Scotland's young people into employment.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Computers

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 290W, on computers, how many of the laptops and desktop computers returned to PICT in the 2010 refresh programme were sold to *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* agencies, companies or other individuals and *(c)* as scrap; and how much revenue was raised in each of these categories. [85301]

John Thurso: Disposal of obsolete ICT equipment arising from the 2010 refresh programme for hon. Members was undertaken by two third-party suppliers, one covering constituency offices and another covering the estate. In both cases, after destruction of data to specified and certified standards, the choice between resale or destruction was a commercial one taken by the suppliers.

No equipment was sold to hon. Members. Nearly 2,760 laptops and desktops were sold to third parties or destroyed by the suppliers during the relevant period. Revenue amounting to £70,122 was received as a result. This figure includes revenue from the disposal of some printers from the estate which cannot be separately identified. Comparable figures are not available separately for sales to third parties and destruction.

WALES

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what criteria her Department uses when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if she will make a statement. [85647]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has an annual internal audit programme, which is agreed by the Audit Committee and internal audit. The areas tested each year change according to the Audit Committee's priorities for the year.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps her Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [85666]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has no executive agencies, and all services used by the Department are under Ministry of Justice procured contracts.

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what risk registers are held by the non-departmental public bodies for which her Department is responsible; and if she will make a statement. [85713]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office is not responsible for any non-departmental public bodies.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85662]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office uses approved public procurement policies to achieve the most advantageous combination of cost, quality and sustainability to meet the Department's requirements.

My Department does not have executive agencies.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1WS, on the Cabinet Manual, (1) whether he expects chapter two of the Cabinet Manual on Elections and Government Formation to have any legal status in the event of a future hung parliament; [86228]

(2) whether he plans to re-issue the Cabinet Manual *(a)* when relevant legislative changes are made, *(b)* when relevant changes to the machinery of Government are made, *(c)* when a significant EU treaty is signed and *(d)* on a regular calendar based timescale. [86229]

The Prime Minister: As stated in the preface of the Cabinet Manual, it is not intended to be legally binding or to set issues in stone. We expect it to evolve in form and content over time.

Departmental Internet

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Prime Minister if he will ensure that the 10 Downing street website is updated to include meetings he has had since March 2011. [86174]

The Prime Minister: An updated list has been published. It can be found on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations-april-june

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Office has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [82990]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

For the purposes of administration, 10 Downing street is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I have given him today on this matter.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Prime Minister how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85938]

The Prime Minister: Out of 270 ordinary written questions tabled, 265 received a substantive response within 10 days. All remaining questions were answered within 20 days.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General what criteria *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85629]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) is responsible for handling internal audits for itself, the Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI).

The TSol Internal Audit Service complies fully with Government Internal Audit Standards. Each year an annual internal audit plan, identifying individual internal audits and their proposed timing, is prepared and approved by the Audit Committee. This annual plan is designed to meet the assurance needs of the Accounting Officer, Board and Audit Committee. During the year the internal audit plan may be updated, with the approval of the Accounting Officer and Audit Committee, to reflect changes to TSol's operations, risk profile or assurance needs.

The Director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and the chair of the Audit Committee agree an annual plan of reviews with the SFO's internal auditors to provide independent assurance that the SFO's risk management and internal control processes are operating effectively. When deciding on the topics and timing of internal audits within that plan the SFO considers planned business initiatives for the coming year, financial reporting requirements and previous NAO/Internal Audit report findings.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is the largest of the Law Officers' Departments. The CPS Head of Internal Audit (HIA) is responsible for determining which internal audits are undertaken based on CPS' management's assessment of the risks to the achievement of organisational objectives. The criteria used by the HIA when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit are:

The significance of the activity/system to the achievement of organisational goals, and the maintenance of the CPS's reputation.

The degree to which an activity mitigates risks identified on the Corporate Risk Register.

The findings of recent audit or HMCPSI activity.

Cumulative audit knowledge of the robustness of controls and compliance in place in a system.

The level of change in a system—to people, process, technology, inputs, and its operating environment.

The difficulty of the objective, the complexity of the system and the level of IT/automation.

The novelty of the activity and risk assessment.

The financial materiality of the system.

The stated needs for assurance of the accounting officers.

The known plans of the HMCPSI and National Audit Office in relation to the activity/system in question.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85670]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments are required to follow EU procurement rules and Government procurement guidance to ensure best value for money. Government procurement best practice encourages small and medium sized enterprises to tender for procurement opportunities and recognises the importance of environmental, social and economic concerns.

In line with Government procurement policy the Law Officers' Departments normally use pre-tendered pan-government contracts wherever possible for the supply of services. Such contracts will have been awarded following an open competition process led by either the Government Procurement Service (formally the Office of Government Commerce-Buying Solutions) or another Government Department or public sector body.

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Attorney-General what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which the Law Officers' Departments are responsible; and if he will make a statement. [85715]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments do not have responsibility for any other public bodies.

Prosecutions: Tobacco

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Attorney-General how many people have been prosecuted for selling illegal tobacco products in each of the last five years. [85625]

The Attorney-General: Excise offences include evasion of duty on alcohol and hydrocarbon oils as well as tobacco products. There is no specific offence of selling illegal tobacco products.

The following table provides information relating to the number of completed prosecutions, by defendant, for "excise" offences where charges were laid under SI 70 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979. It is not possible to break this data down further without retrieving files at disproportionate expense.

Financial years	*Excise cases*
2006-07	358
2007-08	330
2008-09	240
2009-10	263
2010-11	271
2011-to date	320

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* Members of the European Parliament who receive funding from the common agricultural policy. [84000]

Mr Paice: No such estimate has been made. It would not be possible to do so without incurring disproportionate cost as it would require considerable cross-checking between, for example, lists of hon. Members interests and the database of beneficiaries of common agricultural policy funds. Simply searching the database for hon. Members' (or MEPs') names would not identify any businesses in which they had an interest.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 221W, on animal welfare: circuses, for what reasons it was considered that to ensure full participation assurances should be given to participants that the data collected would be confidential; and if she will make a statement. [82081]

Mr Paice: The decision to agree to confidentiality for these specific papers rests with the previous Government. The participants have reiterated to this Government that confidentiality should be maintained and, having considered the circumstances, the Government's view is that confidentiality should be respected.

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of legal advice submitted to her Department by Animal Defenders International on 7 June 2011 on the conformity of a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses with the *(a)* Human Rights Act 1998 and *(b)* European Services directive. [83456]

Mr Paice: The Government's assessment of the legal advice submitted by Animal Defenders International are protected by legal professional privilege which is not ordinarily waived. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), does not propose to waive privilege on this occasion.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish proposals for a licensing scheme for wild animals in circuses. [84433]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cambridge (Dr Huppert), during the oral answers to questions on 13 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 467-68.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which bodies are advising her Department on the proposals for a licensing scheme for wild animals in circuses. [84434]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has had, or will shortly have, discussions on our proposals for a licensing scheme for wild animals in circuses with the RSPCA, Animal Defenders International, Born Free, CAPS and PAWSI.

Animal Welfare: Performing Arts

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessments she has made of the adequacy of the welfare standards applicable to animals used in the performing arts industry. [84580]

Mr Paice: No such assessments have been made of animal welfare standards applicable to the performing arts as a whole. DEFRA is currently considering the adequacy of welfare standards in the context of performing wild animals in travelling circuses, and will consult on proposals for this in early 2012.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of bovine tuberculosis have been recorded in camelids in each of the last 12 months. [82340]

Mr Paice: The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency provides DEFRA with data on the number of cases of camelids it has examined for TB each quarter and the number positive for M. bovis on culture. Cumulative figures are published in the statistics section of DEFRA's website.

The numbers of cases reported in the last 12 months have been:

	October-December 2010	*January-March 2011*	*April-June 2011*	*July-September 2011*
Cases examined				
Alpacas	12	17	35	40
Llamas	1	1	1	1
Numbers positive for M. bovis				
Alpacas	2	4	3	0
Llamas	0	0	0	0

All data provided for 2011 are provisional and subject to change as more becomes available.

The figures represent submissions of individual animals rather than premises (i.e. several submissions may be from the same premises) and are made up of a combination of voluntary submissions from a range of farms and also multiple submissions from a small number of TB-restricted herds undergoing repeat TB testing and compulsory slaughter of TB test reactor animals (i.e. which have given a test result consistent with being infected with bovine TB) and non-reactor ("direct contact") animals.

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* initial capital cost and *(b)* ongoing maintenance costs are of the SAM computer system for logging cases of bovine tuberculosis. [83569]

Mr Paice: The initial capital cost of the SAM system for bovine TB is £12.8 million and the annual running cost (hosting and application support), on average, £153,000 per annum.

SAM will enable savings in staff costs specifically related to bovine TB of over £2.3 million per annum. In addition, the investment will allow legacy systems, that are approaching the end of their economic lives and are rapidly becoming unsupportable, to be retired, with consequential savings in support costs. Specifically this system will automate the administrative process relating to bovine TB (which accounts for approximately 50% of Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency's core business), improving both speed and quality. The time required to enter test results and to remove infected animals will be minimised as a result of reducing manual data entry and preventing any possible errors in duplicate data entry.

Dangerous Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what correspondence she has received on the effects on local authority budgets of dealing with dangerous dogs in England. [81000]

Mr Paice: There are no records of Ministers having received correspondence on this subject from local authorities. However, we are aware of their concerns regarding the costs facing them.

Dogs: Tagging

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the case for compulsory micro-chipping of dogs. [80463]

Mr Paice: The Government are considering a range of measures to deal with dangerous dogs and irresponsible dog ownership. One of the proposals under consideration is the compulsory micro-chipping of dogs. We have made it a priority to look at the complex issue of dangerous dogs and will shortly announce measures to tackle them and make our streets safer.

Imports: Israel

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what total volume by *(a)* value and *(b)* tonnage of fresh fruit and vegetables was imported from Israel in each of the last five years; and what proportion by (i) value and (ii) tonnage (A) had and (B) did not have a certificate of conformity with marketing standards issued by the Israeli authorities. [82408]

Mr Paice: The requirement for a certificate of conformity is only relevant for imports of those particular products which are covered by EU marketing standards for fresh fruit and vegetables. Certain products such as potatoes are not covered by the standards—but for information import figures for this crop are also included in the following tables:

Table 1: Total (a) value and (b) volume of fresh fruit and vegetables, as regulated by EU marketing standards, for 2006-10

	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
Description	£000	Tonnes	£000	Tonnes	£000	Tonnes	£000	Tonnes	£000	Tonnes
Fresh fruit	30,513	37,075	31,316	41,503	24,824	31,707	27,633	31,813	27,194	28,989
Fresh vegetables	14,547	13,610	18,285	15,847	12,815	12,427	14,920	25,225	16,237	18,115

Source:
HM Revenue and Customs. Data prepared by DEFRA.

Table 2. Total tonnage and proportion of imports, as regulated by EU marketing standards, that (a) had (b) did not have a certificate of conformity issued by the Israeli authorities

	Tonnes			Percentage	
	With certificate	Without	Total	With certificate	Without
2007	23,099	5,297	28,396	81	19
2008	33,011	17,917	50,928	65	35
2009	9,050	6,547	15,597	58	42
2010	17,418	11,561	28,979	60	40
2011[1]	11,963	3,127	15,090	79	21

[1] Until 22 November 2011

Note:
July 2009—changes to the marketing standards saw the number of specific marketing standards reduced from 36 to 10.

Table 3. Total (a) value and (b) volume of imports of potatoes

		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
Type	Description	£000	Tonnes	£000	Tonnes	£000	Tonnes	£000	Tonnes	£000	Tonnes
Potatoes	New potatoes; fresh or chilled	25,500	82,306	31,005	101,086	31,338	103,091	18,861	63,508	18,900	61,236
	Potatoes-other (main crop/ ware); fresh or chilled	1,329	4,018	2,057	7,295	2,719	10,484	4,373	16,970	771	2,107
	Potatoes total	26,829	86,323	33,062	108,381	34,057	113,575	23,234	80,477	19,672	63,343

Source:
HM Revenue and Customs. Data prepared by DEFRA.

Livestock: Disease Control

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the risk to human and animal health of the use of antibiotics on farm animals as a preventative measure. [84664]

Mr Paice: All veterinary medicinal products must satisfy extensive safety criteria, which include safety to the animal being treated, safety to humans and safety to the environment before being granted a marketing authorisation. Efficacy and quality criteria must also be satisfied. There is also a specific requirement for manufacturers to supply data to address the area of the development of resistance new antibiotic products prior to authorisation.

Veterinary medicinal products containing antibiotics are available only on veterinary prescription. Where products have been authorised for use in food producing animals, the greater majority are authorised for the treatment of disease. This authorisation includes the treatment of groups of animals when not all individual animals have developed the symptoms of the disease. A minority of veterinary medicinal product containing antibiotics are authorised for the prevention of disease in farmed animals and these include those used to prevent mastitis in dairy cattle at drying-off.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of animals subjected to mulesing in England in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assessment she has made of the effect of this practice on the welfare of the animal. [84665]

Mr Paice: Mulesing is not a permitted procedure in the UK. There have been no reported illegal mutilations of animals in this way in the UK, therefore no assessment of this practice has been made on the welfare of the UK-reared animal.

Veterinary Laboratory Service: Redundancy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what impact assessment her Department has conducted on *(a)* the loss of 81 members of staff in the rationalisation of the Veterinary Laboratory Service and *(b)* what impact the loss of 81 staff members will have on the level of service provided by the Veterinary Laboratory Agency; and if she will place (i) the impact assessment and (ii) the academic model on which the proposed rationalisation is based in the Library. [77730]

Mr Paice: In April 2011 the AHVLA executive team initiated a review of the delivery of laboratory services across England and Wales. This work followed the earlier AHVLA sustainable surveillance project which recommended that the post mortem examination of

carcases, which makes up the most critical aspect of surveillance work, be de-coupled from the provision of laboratory service functions, removing the requirement for co-location of the two work areas.

No formal impact assessment is required for changes such as these. Under the current Better Regulation Guidance it states that if there is no impact on regulation and there is no increased cost to the end user then no impact assessment is required. The decision on which laboratories would retain laboratory services was based on a number of factors including future needs for specialist skills, staff capacity to deliver the volumes of work, facilities required, and retaining resilience of service delivery.

The basis for the new delivery model is not an academic study; it is our experience of the model used successfully at the University Veterinary Schools surveillance centres at both Liverpool and London. At these sites the university staff accept carcase material and then forward samples onto the relevant AHVLA regional laboratory as no testing is carried out at the veterinary schools.

The onward submission of tests to other laboratory sites is also common practice at all post mortem sites, so this is an extension of existing practice.

The ability to respond to disease outbreak with a surge in capacity is maintained as confirmatory tests for notifiable diseases are carried out by Weybridge which is not part of the regional laboratory network. AHVLA is confident that service levels will not be reduced with the proposed changes.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to answer question 70107, on electronic training aids for cats, tabled by the hon. Member for North East Derbyshire on 2 September 2011 for answer on 6 September 2011. [80908]

Mr Paice: I apologise to the hon. Member. My answer on electronic training aids for cats was published on 24 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 436.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Cadets

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 974W, on armed forces: cadets, if he will consider extending the central provision of insurance for sea cadet forces to cover buildings insurance. [85175]

Mr Robathan: Sea cadet units are independent charities in their own right, affiliated to the Marine Society and sea. cadets subject to certain conditions being in place. Each unit therefore is responsible for funding its own running costs, including buildings insurance, which they do in the main with considerable success. The Marine Society and sea cadets provide a competitive package through their insurers with a free direct debit service for units to spread this through the year. There are no current plans to increase the central provision to include buildings insurance.

Armed Forces: Education

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to ensure that education and training for armed forces recruits aged between 16 and 18 years meet the minimum standards recommended by the Wolf Review of vocational education; and what the cost of meeting these standards is. [85336]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 8 December 2011]:* The Government's acceptance of the recommendations of the Wolf Review of Vocational Education, means that functional skills and GCSEs will be the only recognised pathways to achieve the compulsory English and maths elements of an apprenticeship. The armed forces are committed to the introduction of functional skills and some areas already exceed the minimum requirements laid down in the Wolf Report. All areas will meet these requirements within the timescales laid down, under transition arrangements for the introduction of functional skills.

The costs of delivering apprenticeships for those aged between 16 and 18 years are embedded in the total training costs and cannot be separated without incurring disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Food

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes have been made to the Pay As You Dine scheme since May 2010. [86011]

Mr Robathan: There have been no changes to the Pay As You Dine scheme since May 2010.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* RAF personnel in Afghanistan who will return to a different accommodation when they have completed their deployment in the next year; [84977]

(2) how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* RAF personnel in Afghanistan will be informed of the location of their service accommodation on return from their deployment; [84978]

(3) how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* RAF personnel overseas will return to a different accommodation having completed their deployment in the next year; [84980]

(4) how many *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* RAF personnel currently overseas will be informed of the location of their service accommodation on return from deployment in the next year. [84981]

Mr Robathan: No service families with a member away on operational deployment will be asked to move to a different service family accommodation property during their deployment.

Personnel in single living accommodation are not generally moved to alternative accommodation while away on operational deployment. Information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Leisure Services

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the number of local authorities in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland which offer discounts for local authority-owned leisure services for (i) serving members and (ii) veterans of the armed forces; [85686]

(2) what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government on local authorities offering discounted leisure services to *(a)* serving servicemen and women and *(b)* veterans of the armed forces. [85687]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 8 December 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence (MOD) welcomes all initiatives to offer discounts to serving personnel or veterans. While no estimate or formal discussions have taken place, the MOD held an armed forces community covenant conference with the Local Government Association for local authorities in England on 1 November 2011. In the discussions and workshops that took place, the issue of offering discounts to members of the armed forces community was discussed, with some local authorities providing examples of what discounts they offered. Ultimately decisions on these matters must be for the local authorities themselves.

In addition, the MOD provides, through an agreement with a contractor, a Defence discount scheme which is open to all those who are serving, have served, their families, MOD civil servants, cadets, reservists and NATO personnel serving in the UK. The scheme has partnered with over 1,200 businesses offering thousands of discounts across the UK. The scheme has an active membership of over 190,000 members; is free to join; and is easily accessed through the website:

www.forcesdiscounts-mod.co.uk

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what efficiency savings his Department made in 2010-11; what savings he expects to make in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; what targets he has set for each of these years; and if he will make a statement. [85232]

Mr Philip Hammond: The efficiency programme set out in the 2010 spending review began at the start of the current financial year. The previous financial year was covered by the value for money programme that saved £2.8 billion over the years covered by the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

The Ministry of Defence is committed to realise £3.2 billion in efficiencies over the spending review period. Detailed analysis of our performance against these measures will be reported annually, after the departmental accounts have been audited.

Railways

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Transport on the potential for greater use of his Department's rail infrastructure in and around Bicester following the re-opening of the east-west rail link between Oxford and Milton Keynes. [85763]

Mr Robathan: Ministry of Defence (MOD) officials are in discussions with the Department for Transport for the utilisation of the rail network at the MOD site in Bicester.

The Department for Transport is supportive of the MOD's proposals including retention and exploitation of rail connections.

Ex-servicemen: Employment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many veterans of the armed forces have found long-term work through the Employment Support Programme in each year since its creation; [84070]

(2) how many armed forces veterans have found long-term work through the Full Resettlement programme in each year since its creation; [84993]

(3) how many veterans have found long-term work through the Career Transition Partnership *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each year since its creation. [83821]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 29 November 2011]:* This information is not collected by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as it would require former service personnel to notify the MOD when they have obtained or changed employment. However, the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) undertakes a survey at six months after discharge and the following table lists the total number of service leavers who have gained employment within six months of being discharged since 2005. We do not maintain records for individual programmes ran by CTP.

Financial year	*Number of career transition clients employed within six months of discharge*
2005-06	9,811
2006-07	11,819
2007-08	12,673
2008-09	8,666
2009-10	10,047

This indicates that, over the period, some 95% of CTP clients have secured employment within six months of leaving.

Iran: Nuclear Weapons

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the potential for the weaponisation of the Iranian nuclear programme. [85230]

Nick Harvey: In November the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) expressed

"serious concerns"

about credible information that

"indicates that Iran has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device."

It also suggests that some activities relevant to the development of such a device may still be ongoing. We share these concerns and continue to call for full implementation by Iran of United Nations Security Council and IAEA Board of Governors Resolutions.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84173]

Mr Robathan: Postcodes are used in the Ministry of Defence for purposes other than the postage of mail but it is not possible to provide a definitive and detailed list of these uses, because this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The following examples are no more than indicative.

Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) use postcodes as the basis for aggregating statistics on stationed location, as published in TSP 10—UK Regular Forces Stationed Location and available online at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=100&pubType=0&date=2011-11-17&disText=01%20Oct%202011&from=historic&topDate=2011-11-17&PublishTime=09:30:00

The postcodes are used to identify an individual's base location and to count how many people are stationed within a particular base, local authority, region, or country.

Postcodes have also been used to group the responses to administration surveys into rough areas by using the first part of the postcode eg SW1A 2HB would be collated with other responses in the SW1A area, cross referenced to the post town.

RAF Lossiemouth

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 9 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 368W, on RAF Lossiemouth, European Fighter Aircraft, for what period of time RAF Lossiemouth undertook the Quick Reaction Alert North role when resurfacing work was undertaken at RAF Leuchars; and on how many occasions aircraft from RAF Lossiemouth were *(a)* scrambled and *(b)* launched in that role during that period; [83902]

(2) on how many occasions aircraft from RAF Leuchars have responded to incidents which *(a)* involved and *(b)* did not involve aircraft from foreign powers in the last 10 years. [83903]

Nick Harvey: The choice of the Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) base or bases used for each incident is at the discretion of the tactical commander and forms part of the deterrent value of our QRA posture. Therefore, it is departmental policy only to release limited statistics relating to QRA launches.

QRA statistics are no longer held for incidents prior to September 2006. All launches of the QRA force from September 2006 were either for Russian military aviation (Bear or Blackjack aircraft) which approached the NATO Air Policing Area (for which the UK has responsibility) or aircraft within UK civil airspace that were causing concern to air traffic controllers. The aircraft that were causing concern to civil controllers were a range of aircraft types registered in a range of countries, including the UK.

The number of days on which RAF QRA aircraft have been launched from all QRA bases since September 2006 is as follows:

Number of days QRA launched	*Number*
2006 (since September)	2
2007	24
2008	15
2009	14
2010	14
2011	18

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Richard Drax: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will review the Strategic Defence and Security Review in the light of global instability; [84625]

(2) if he will review the Strategic Defence and Security Review in the light of rising unemployment. [84626]

Mr Philip Hammond: No. Events have demonstrated that the central finding of the Strategic Defence and Security Review—the need for the UK to adopt an adaptable posture—remains appropriate.

Warships: Wrecks

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps his Department is taking to identify and contact the current owners of HMS Aboukir, HMS Hogue and HMS Cressy to seek their assistance in preventing further disturbance to these three war graves; [86047]

(2) whether there are provisions in the contract of sale of the wrecks of HMS Aboukir, HMS Hogue and HMS Cressy to provide for the proper treatment of human remains; [86049]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the salvors fulfil their legal obligations to land and report any recovery of personal possessions of the crews of HMS Aboukir, HMS Hogue and HMS Cressy. [86050]

Mr Robathan: Departmental records indicate that these three wrecks were sold, apparently for scrap, in 1954. We are aware that salvage subsequently took place in the 1950s and 1960s. Records do not identify the purchaser.

No details remain on the circumstances of the sale or of the provisions of the agreement.

It is the responsibility of the salvors to comply with the appropriate national legislation wherever wreck material is landed, whether this comprises of the ship's fixtures and fittings or the personal possessions of individuals. Notwithstanding the particular circumstances of these three wrecks, the Ministry of Defence is continuing to liaise and work with the Dutch authorities with respect to the activities of salvors based in the Netherlands and on issues related to naval wreck protection in general.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the protection of maritime war graves in international waters; and if he will make a statement. [86048]

Mr Robathan: The Government view wrecked military vessels, wherever they may lie, as being the last resting places of those who lost their lives in the ship's sinking. As a general principle we believe that such sites should remain undisturbed to the maximum extent possible.

With regard to the protection of such wrecks in international waters, depending on the circumstances of the individual case we would look to make use of our rights in international law together with domestic legislation where appropriate.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband: Expenditure

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has invested in broadband infrastructure in each of the last three financial years. [85566]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has been responsible for broadband delivery since April 2011. The Department has £530 million to support broadband infrastructure over the period to 2015, and indicative funding allocations for each local authority area and the devolved Administrations were announced in the summer. Each area needs to undertake a procurement to select a broadband supplier and funding will be paid in accordance with the achievement of delivery targets by the supplier. No projects have yet reached this stage and consequently no payments have been made so far. Currently eight local broadband projects are in procurement and a further four local areas have agreed Local Broadband Plans. Together, these represent nearly half of the allocated funding. The other areas of the country are currently developing their plans.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85634]

John Penrose: This Department's internal audit function is provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government's Internal Audit Services (IAS), which operates to Government Internal Audit Standards. IAS produces an annual audit plan that is agreed with the Department on the basis of need, priority and expected value added, and is approved by its Audit and Risk Committee (ARC). The plan includes a core package of audits on controls and compliance, necessary to provide assurance to the accounting officer at the year end and which will support the annual Governance Statement (which replaces the Statement on Internal Control this financial year). In addition, there is a programme of risk-based work, which reflects the Department's priorities and high-level risk registers and is developed during the year in the light of changes in the risk environment. The plan also contains a flexible allowance—for ad hoc advisory work and to enable timely response to changes in risk profile or other developments during the year. Prior experience, assessment of urgency and regular contact with senior management, the ARC and the National Audit Office all inform the precise timing of individual internal audits.

The equivalent information for the Department's public bodies is not held centrally, though the criteria used by them would be set by each individual body's own board and audit committee.

Secondment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many secondees are working in his Department and its associated public bodies; from which organisations; for how long each secondment is due to last; and if he will make a statement. [85813]

John Penrose: There are 16 secondees working in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport as outlined in the following table.

Home organisation	*Expected leaving date*	*Work area*
Royal Parks	30 October 2012	DCMS
Qualifications Curriculum Authority	19 October 2012	DCMS
Electoral Commission	7 November 2012	DCMS
National Audit Office	31 October 2012	DCMS
English Cricket Board	16 April 2012	DCMS
Royal Air Force	31 October 2012	Olympic Games
Olympic Delivery Authority	30 September 2012	Olympic Games
DWP	31 October 2012	Olympic Games
Olympic Delivery Authority	31 December 2011	Olympic Games
Olympic Delivery Authority	30 November 2012	Olympic Games
Transport for London	20 April 2012	Olympic Games
Transport for London	30 December 2011	Olympic Games
Hitachi	1 August 2012	Olympic Games
Olympic Delivery Authority	31 December 2012	Olympic Games
Olympic Delivery Authority	30 September 2012	Olympic Games
Olympic Delivery Authority	30 September 2012	Olympic Games

We do not collate this information for our non-departmental public bodies. Accordingly, I have asked each of their chief executives to write directly to the hon. Member for Harrow West. Copies of the replies will be placed in both House Libraries.

Ofcom: Finance

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the budget is for Ofcom for the period 2008 to 2016. [85355]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom's budgets for 2008-09 to 2011-12 inclusive are shown in the following table:

	Budget (£ million)
2008-09	133.7
2009-10	136.8
2010-11	142.5
2011-12	
Including six months post	119.8
Excluding post	(115.8)

Ofcom has not set its budget beyond 2011-12. However, the funding cap agreed by HM Treasury as part of the recent spending review, and from within which Ofcom will set future budgets for the years 2012-13 to 2014-15 inclusive, are shown in the following table:

	Budget (£ million)
2012-13	125.9
2013-14	121.0
2014-15	119.7

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost was of operating the London 2012 Business Network in each year since its establishment. [82097]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has interpreted this question as being the cost of the CompeteFor service (the website chosen by London 2012 for the publication of Games-related contract opportunities).

CompeteFor cost £3.633 million to develop, which included concept development, specification, implementation and testing, and establishing the support structure.

A summary of the operating costs of CompeteFor for each financial year is shown as follows:

Financial year	CompeteFor (website and helpdesk) (£)
2007/08	[1]220,000
2008/09	1,226,633
2009/10	1,201,555
2010/11	853,163
2011/12 (projected)	799,230

[1] December to March

In addition, CompeteFor employs a buyer engagement service, helping buying organisations to ensure they are supported and to maximise their use of CompeteFor.

The cost of the buyer engagement service for each financial year is shown as follows:

Financial year	Buyer engagement service (£)
2007/08	587,000
2008/09	1,036,082
2009/10	993,980
2010/11	1,066,301
2011/12 (projected)	772,085

CompeteFor has been funded by the regional development agencies in England along with the devolved Administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Radio Frequencies

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the monetary value of receipts from the auction of 4G spectrum. [85352]

Mr Vaizey: We have made no estimates of the monetary value of receipts from auctions. Similar auctions for 4G spectrum across Europe have raised significantly different amounts. The recent German auction raised a total of €4.4 billion for spectrum in three bands and France's recent auction of Spectrum at 2.6 GHz raised €936 million in total. This has to be compared with spectrum auctions in other countries which raised much lower amounts, Sweden raised approximately €233 million for the 800 MHz band in its recent auction and Finland raised approximately €3.8 million in its auction of 2.6 GHz spectrum. It should be noted that the forthcoming auction in the UK may be under different terms to those and the UK market is different to markets in those countries.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the monetary value of receipts from the release of spectrum below 5 GHz. [85356]

Mr Vaizey: We have made no estimates on the likely revenues that could be generated by the release of the 500 MHz of publically held spectrum. The purpose of the release is to generate innovation and commercial opportunities for industry rather than to generate revenue. In addition the exact bands to be released have not been decided yet and this would be a significant factor in determining the value of the spectrum to industry.

International Sporting Events

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the financial benefit to the economy of international sporting events staged in the UK for each of the last three financial years. [85473]

Hugh Robertson: The evidence we have of financial benefits to the economy from international sporting events staged in the UK relates to events supported through UK Sport's Major Events Programme. While these are supported to deliver a wide range of impacts, research shows that for every £1 of investment into those events, a net economic impact of £4.87 has been felt in the host economy, generating a projected overall impact of £48 million from an investment of £9.86 million.

The £6 billion investment in the building of the Olympic Park and Village has already had 98% of contracts awarded to British businesses and over 40,000 people having worked to build the Olympic Park and Village by the time all work is complete. The whole of the UK stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 Games, through businesses winning Games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations.

Sports: VAT

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the decision by HM Revenue and Customs that the provision of sports league services is subject to VAT at the standard rate. [85499]

Hugh Robertson: I recently wrote to the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for South West Hertfordshire (Mr Gauke), about the VAT treatment of sports leagues. The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury clarified that the standard rate of VAT has always been in place for sports leagues. They issued the Revenue and Customs Brief 04/11 in February to make clear this position.

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential effects on levels of participation in sport of the decision by HM Revenue and Customs that the provision of sports league services is subject to VAT at the standard rate. [85500]

Hugh Robertson: Neither the Department nor Sport England have made a specific assessment of the potential effects on levels of participation in sport by the VAT treatment of sports leagues. However, we do record participation levels in sport via the Taking Part Survey and Active People Survey which can be found at the following links:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/research_and_statistics/4828.aspx

and

http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey.aspx

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will offer assistance to providers of league sport services whose businesses are affected by the HM Revenue and Customs decision that the provision of such services is subject to VAT at the standard rate. [85501]

Hugh Robertson: The Revenue and Customs Brief 04/11, issued in February by HM Revenue and Customs:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/briefs/vat/brief0411.htm

advises businesses who feel they have been affected by incorrect advice to contact the HMRC Complaints Team. The Department does not have an intention to provide an additional service for such businesses.

Television: Licences

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of television licences issued in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how much income was generated. [86172]

John Penrose: My Department does not hold information on the number of television licences broken down by nation. The BBC does not calculate these figures.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85937]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The information is not held in the format requested.

Of the 564 questions tabled to me for ordinary written answer between 12 May 2010 and 30 November 2011, 493 (88%) received a substantive response within the five sitting day deadline.

Domestic Visits

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many visits he has undertaken in an official capacity to *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland since his appointment; and whether he plans to visit Northern Ireland in 2012. [86209]

The Deputy Prime Minister: During my time in office I have visited Scotland three times, Wales twice and Northern Ireland once. My travel plans for the forthcoming year have not been confirmed.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what consideration has been given by the Collaborative Spatial Planning Group of the British-Irish Council to the availability of sites for Irish Travellers across British and Irish jurisdictions; and if he will place the most recent work programme of that group in the Library. [85880]

The Deputy Prime Minister: There has been no such consideration by the British-Irish Council Collaborative Spatial Planning group.

The British-Irish Council provides a consultative, inter-executive forum that allows its members to consult, discuss and exchange views on a range of issues, on a confidential basis. Biannual updates of the Collaborative Spatial Planning group's work can be found in the British-Irish Council summit communiqués, available to the public through:

http://www.gov.je/britishirishcouncil/Pages/index.aspx

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will estimate the average level of council tax per capita for *(a)* Suffolk Coastal, *(b)* Teignbridge, *(c)* Breckland, *(d)* Mid Sussex, *(e)* South Oxfordshire, *(f)* South Cambridgeshire, *(g)* East Lindsey, *(h)* Isle of Wight and *(i)* Wealden in each year between 2008-09 and 2011-12; [85315]

(2) if he will estimate the average level of council tax per capita for *(a)* Newcastle-under-Lyme, *(b)* Preston, *(c)* Middlesbrough, *(d)* Poole, *(e)* Arun and *(f)* Elmbridge in each year between 2008-09 and 2011-12; [85316]

(3) if he will estimate the average level of council tax per capita for *(a)* Ipswich, *(b)* Halton, *(c)* Nuneaton and Bedworth, *(d)* Slough, *(e)* Norwich, *(f)* Thanet, *(g)* Reigate and Banstead, *(h)* Torbay, *(i)* Windsor and Maidenhead, *(j)* Oxford, *(k)* Canterbury and *(l)* Blackburn with Darwen in each year between 2008-09 and 2011-12. [85317]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* Figures on average council tax per dwelling and average band D council tax by local authority can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/

Figures on council tax requirements by local authority can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/revenueexpenditure/

Mid-year population estimates by local authority area are published by the Office for National Statistics.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/population/population-change/population-estimates

Council Tax Benefits

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress his Department has made on the implementation of council tax benefit localisation. [85579]

Robert Neill: The consultation on proposals for localising support for council tax in England closed on 14 October 2011, and the Government will publish a formal response in due course, alongside draft legislation. The Department is continuing to discuss its proposals, and plans for enabling local schemes to be implemented by April 2013, with Local Government.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85633]

Robert Neill: Internal audit services in the Department for Communities and Local Government provide the internal audit function to the Department, and six of the 18 executive agencies, non-departmental public bodies, public corporations and public body for which the Department is responsible. The others use their own criteria for deciding what should be audited and this information is not held centrally.

The delivery of internal audit services is governed by Government internal audit standards and these standards ensure a consistent and robust approach to the delivery of services, including the determination of the scope of Internal Audit plans.

Internal audits are undertaken by internal audit services as part of agreed annual internal audit plans. These are compiled by looking at the risk profile of the Department (and its bodies where the service provides the internal audit function) through: discussions with senior management; the National Audit Office; and reviews of high level risk registers. These are agreed with the Audit and Risk Committees and are reviewed throughout the year to reflect changes in the risk profile. The timing of internal audit reviews is determined as part of this process.

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84199]

Robert Neill: All departmental staff employed in communications roles are members of the Department's Communication Directorate, which comprises external communications division and corporate communications division, managed by the Director of Communication.

At the time the current Administration took office in May 2010, the Department employed 72 people with a communications remit. As at 30 November 2011, there are 52 staff working in communication roles in the Department. As part of the Department's organisational restructuring, the Communication Directorate's staffing levels will decrease further during 2012, with seven members of staff leaving by April.

Of the current staffing: external communications currently employs 25 communications officers working on a combination of press, marketing, speechwriting and news planning. This equates to 23.4 full-time equivalent posts, as some members of staff are employed part time. There are 15 people who work predominantly on press office duties.

Corporate communications currently employs 23 communications officers working on internal communication, web management, print/publishing and the Info4Local internet service. This equates to 22.6 full-time equivalent posts. Four other communications specialists within Communication Directorate work directly with policy directorates.

The Department does not hold a comprehensive, up-to-date record of the communications posts across all of its public bodies. However, the Department and its public bodies are increasingly working together to provide communication services more efficiently, reflecting the best practice that we are encouraging local government to follow. The number of communication specialists across the Department and its public bodies will be reduced by a further 17 full-time equivalent posts by October 2012.

Departmental Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by his

Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80708]

Robert Neill: All litigation cases against the Department are managed by the Treasury Solicitors Department under a service level agreement. The litigation cases include judicial reviews, statutory planning appeals (some of which are also judicial reviews), compulsory purchase order challenges, personal injury, employment and contractual cases.

(a) In the last Parliament under the previous Administration from 5 May 2005 to 6 May 2010 there were on average 260 open cases at any one time and DCLG paid around £9,105,000 in total for that period;

(b) Since 7 May 2010 to 31 October 2011 there were on average 230 open cases at any one time, including legal challenges inherited from the previous Administration. DCLG paid around £2,084,000 in total for that period. The costs paid to the Treasury Solicitors included fees, disbursements and adverse costs.

To disaggregate this information further, for just judicial review cases and to identify applications that succeeded, failed, remains pending, costs awarded and paid could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any senior staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85083]

Robert Neill: No senior staff in the Department for Communities and Local Government (either in the Department, its Executive agencies or non-departmental public bodies) are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary. The Department does not have a formal policy in relation to this issue.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85046]

Robert Neill: The readily available information, which relates to the month in which parliamentary questions were tabled, is shown in the following table.

2011	*Number of named day questions*	*Answered on time or within five sitting days*[1]
May	48	44
June	71	61
July	55	54
August	7	7
September	24	21
October	60	57

[1] Including non-sitting Fridays.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Homes and Communities Agency: Equality

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria were used to select the members of the Homes and Communities Agency's Diversity and Equality Working Group; and if he will make a statement. [86173]

Andrew Stunell: The Homes and Communities Agency established an Equality and Diversity Board Advisory Group in June 2009. The Advisory Group acts in an advisory capacity for the agency on diversity and equality issues in relation to its operations as well as organisational issues. It has no authority over the activities of the board, executive management team, staff or the agency's resources. Its terms of reference are available at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/equality-and-diversity-advisory-group

Members serve a term of three years. The group has an independent Chair, Dorian Leatham, appointed by the Homes and Communities Agency's Board. Professor Peter Roberts represents the Agency Board. The Homes and Communities Agency directly appointed three members based on specific areas of expertise with the remaining eight members being selected and appointed in April 2009 following an open competition. All members of the group are expected to demonstrate an expertise and commitment to equality and diversity as well as an understanding of housing and regeneration. Group members are not paid (beyond reasonable travel and subsistence claims).

Housing: North-east England

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his policy on underoccupancy, what assessment he has made of *(a)* the availability of and *(b)* potential changes in demand for one-bedroom properties in (i) County Durham and (ii) the North East. [85562]

Andrew Stunell: Information is not available on the total stock of one-bedroom properties in County Durham and the North East. Estimates of one-bedroom properties as a percentage of all new build properties are available in Table 254 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/livetables/

There are 4,507 one bedroom local authority properties in Durham Unitary Authority accounting for 24% of the local authority's stock. In the North East there are 25,804 one bedroom local authority properties accounting for 22% of the local authority stock in the region.

Estimates are not available for the future demand of one-bed properties. The Department does not forecast housing need. However, the Department publishes household projections that show the number of households

by size that would form if previous demographic trends were to continue. These are available in Table 420 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/householdestimates/livetables-households/

Housing: Population

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on UK housing stock of *(a)* migration from the EU and *(b)* non-EU immigration. [85467]

Andrew Stunell: The Department does not estimate housing need. However, the Department publishes household projections, which are a trend-based view of the number of households that would form given a projected population and previous demographic trends (including migration). Local authorities should use the projections as a part of the evidence base for assessing future housing demand.

The number of households in England is projected to grow to 27.5 million in 2033, an increase of 5.8 million (27%) over 2008, or 232,000 households per year. International migration, based on past trends, contributes around 40% towards this projected increase in households. It is not possible to break this down into EU and non-EU migration.

Government have committed to reduce net migration from the current hundreds of thousands to tens of thousands per year. We have already introduced a series of measures in relation to migrant workers and students, including a limit on the number of skilled workers, and will introduce measures on settlement and family later this year.

Non-domestic Rates

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the effect on rural areas of *(a)* any changes to the arrangements for local retention of business rates and *(b)* proposals for metropolitan areas to retain a greater proportion of business rates. [85615]

Robert Neill: The Government will shortly be introducing a Bill to give effect to their proposals for business rates retention. This Bill will be accompanied by an impact assessment setting out the Government's initial views on the impacts of the proposals.

Right to Buy Scheme

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of homes that will be sold under the new right to buy scheme in each year between 2012-13 and 2015-16. [R] [85454]

Grant Shapps: We will be publishing a consultation paper shortly seeking views on our proposals to reinvigorate the right to buy and an impact assessment detailing the impact of the proposed changes.

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the potential implications for housing benefit expenditure of the extension of the Right to Buy scheme under which homes sold will be replaced by hew homes let as affordable rents. [R] [85455]

Grant Shapps: The Government have announced their intention to reinvigorate the Right to Buy—to support social housing tenants who aspire to own their own home, by raising the discount to make it attractive to tenants across England.

To support tenants and help build more affordable housing, we are matching this with a commitment that for every additional home bought under Right to Buy, a new affordable home will be built.

We will issue a consultation on our proposals shortly and intend to publish an Impact Assessment.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes his Department estimates will be created from the revenue from the sale of social housing properties to their tenants at a 50 per cent. discount. [85475]

Grant Shapps: The receipts generated by right to buy sales will be used not only to pay down the debt associated with that property but also help to fund the delivery of new affordable homes on a one for one basis.

We will be consulting shortly on the best way to ensure delivery of replacement homes across England.

Social Rented Housing: Armed Forces

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 991W, on social rented housing: armed forces, (1) what steps his Department plans to take to measure the effect of its proposed changes to the social housing additional preference given to members of the armed forces; [86357]

(2) for what reasons his Department decided it was necessary to consult on a change to the law in order to require local housing authorities in England to provide for former service personnel with urgent housing needs to receive additional preference in their allocation scheme; [86358]

(3) whether he plans to collect information on *(a)* the number of armed forces personnel and veterans on the waiting lists and *(b)* the councils which give additional preference to armed forces personnel and veterans in the future. [86359]

Grant Shapps: The Government believe it is right that those who have put their life on the line for their country should receive the priority for social housing they need and deserve. We also believe that local authorities in England who are required to implement the regulations, as well as others who are affected by them, should have the opportunity to comment on these changes.

We are considering appropriate changes to the system used by councils and housing associations to record lettings (the CoRe lettings log) so we can monitor the

number of social tenancies granted to service personnel. Local authorities are already obliged to make their allocation scheme available to the public.

Urban Areas: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 25-6W, on urban areas: finance, which local authorities have applied for support from the High Street Support scheme; how much was distributed to each local authority; and which bids for funding were turned down. [82058]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 23 November 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1027W. This outlines how practical support and financial funding has been given by local authorities to local residents and local firms through the Homelessness Support Scheme, the Recovery Fund and the High Street Support Scheme.

Under these schemes, local councils have been in the lead in providing support. Central Government subsequently are reimbursing local councils for their costs retrospectively.

Since that answer, I can inform the House that my Department has made a second set of payments under the Recovery Fund, totalling £1,324,602. This relates to:

London borough of Croydon: £993,749. This includes funding for works to deal with dangerous structures, site clearance and emergency works to highways and footpaths, council tax discounts, street lighting and cleaning.

London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority: £194,484. The majority of this claim is for staff overtime costs.

London borough of Lambeth: £64,989. This relates to additional staff costs for youth custody services and the clearing of debris.

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service: £33,143, in respect of overtime and incidental expenses.

Nottingham city council: £28,482, for costs relating to overtime, cleaning and emergency control centre operations, legal costs and youth activities.

Salford city council: £5,466. The expenditure relates to emergency repairs, street cleaning and staff overtime.

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority: £2,206, for overtime costs.

London borough of Lewisham: £2,083, relating to clearing debris.

As I outlined in my earlier answer, the deadline for councils to claim back their expenditure which they have incurred under the High Street Support Scheme is 31 January 2012.

I will update hon. and right hon. Members in due course on further payments that are made under the schemes.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to ensure local authorities follow best value guidance when making decisions on the funding of voluntary sector organisations; and if he will make a statement. [85683]

Andrew Stunell: The Best Value guidance, published on 2 September, is statutory and local authorities are required to have regard to it. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), wrote to all local authority leaders and chief executives at the time of consultation on the revised Best Value guidance. Following the consultation DCLG issued a press notice and wrote to all those who had been consulted informing them that the revised guidance had been published.

Wildlife: EU Action

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department is to be involved in the review of the implementation of the *(a)* Habitats and *(b)* Wild Birds Directive. [85612]

Robert Neill: Yes. My Department will be involved in this review which will be led by DEFRA.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels: Government Assistance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding her Department provides to assist the development of biofuels. [86241]

Norman Baker: The primary support for biofuels is through the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO), which obligates fossil road transport fuel suppliers to produce evidence that a specified percentage of their fuels for road transport in the UK comes from renewable sources. The RTFO includes a certificate trading mechanism to increase the efficiency of compliance. One certificate is awarded for each litre of biofuel (or kilogram in the case of biogas) supplied. From 15 December 2011, to increase the support for innovative biofuels, two certificates will be awarded for each litre of biofuel produced from non-food cellulose or lignocellulosic material. There will also be two certificates for each litre of biofuels from wastes and residues.

Cycling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails her Department has received on cycling in the last 12 months. [82959][1]

Norman Baker: The Department has received 136 letters and 135 emails regarding cycling in the last 12 months.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost of installing automatic number plate recognition systems for use at the Dartford Crossing. [85460]

1. *[Official Report, 23 February 2012, Vol. 540, c. 1MC.]*

Mike Penning: The proposals for an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) system are currently being considered as part of the preliminary design stage for a free-flow charging scheme at the Dartford Crossing.

Final decisions on that design have yet to be taken and therefore the cost of installation is yet to be determined.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if she will make a statement. [85645]

Norman Baker: Internal audit functions for the Department for Transport, its executive agencies, trading funds and non-departmental public bodies operate to a common methodology, which is consistent with the requirements of the standards issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors, and with Government Internal Auditing Standards.

Audit planning is designed to identify organisational objectives, risks to the achievement of objectives and controls used to manage risks in order to provide integrated assurance to each Accounting Officer. This is achieved through a combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches to identify and prioritise audit assignments consistent with the following criteria:

alignment to key business/corporate plans, objectives and priorities;

assures the mitigation of board-level strategic risks, and key risks for constituent parts of each organisation;

reflects the maturity of existing internal control frameworks, risk management processes and assurance sources;

provides coverage of core internal/compliance functions;

revisits areas audited in previous years that require follow-up;

activity mandated by HM Treasury, Cabinet Office, etc;

where appropriate, responds to management requests for advice on improving the management of risks and internal controls/ operations; or investigates impropriety and other irregularities (for example, arising from whistleblowing or allegations of fraud);

is delivered by the most appropriate assurance provider (for example, does not duplicate work of others such as the external auditors); and

is scheduled when the activity will provide most value, within the confines of the availability of audit resources and the need to provide an annual audit opinion.

The resulting plan is presented to the Accounting Officer and to the Audit Committee, who provide a 'top down' view, prior to formally agreeing the plan.

Departmental Civil Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations that have received funding from her Department have brought legal proceedings against her Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether her Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83895]

Norman Baker: During the last five years, there were two sets of legal proceedings in the superior courts (in both instances in the High Court) brought against the Secretary of State by organisations that also received funding from the central Department for Transport. To confirm the position as regards courts other than superior courts, or in relation to the Department's seven executive agencies would, I regret, incur a disproportionate cost.

The organisations/legal proceedings mentioned above are as follows:

(1) *R (First Essex Buses Ltd) v. Secretary of State for Transport and Anor [2009] EWHC 3024 (Admin) (25 November 2009).*

First Essex Buses Ltd received funding by way of the bus service operators' grant.

First Essex Buses Ltd was not successful in its application for judicial review. Costs were applied for and the payment for costs is being pursued.

(2) *Certain Bus Operating Companies in the Stagecoach Group (1) Certain Bus Operating Companies in the Go-Ahead Group (2) v. Secretary of State for Transport and Anor [2010] EWHC 223 (Admin) (16 February 2010).*

The organisations receiving funding by way of the bus service operators grant:

I. The United Omnibus Company Limited

II. Stagecoach West Limited

III. Stagecoach (South) Limited

IV. Lincolnshire Road Car Limited

V. Midland Red (South) Limited

VI. Thames Transit Limited

VII. East Kent Car Company Limited

VIII. Stagecoach Devon Limited

IX. Cambus Holdings Limited

X. East Midland Motor Services Limited

XI. East Kent Road Car Limited

XII. Solent Blue Line Limited

XIII. Wiltshire and Dorset Bus Company Limited

XIV. Marchwood Motorways (Services) Limited.

The bus operating companies listed above were party to these five judicial review proceedings against the Secretary of State for Transport. Before the High Court was willing to deal with the individual judicial reviews, it chose to deal with "preliminary issues" on how the bus concessionary travel regime operates. (In the meantime it stayed the five individual claims.) It found in favour of the Secretary of State on the preliminary issues and awarded costs to the Secretary of State. Separately, in relation to one discrete element of the bus companies' claims, and which the Secretary of State had already conceded (called the "fixed sum" issue), the High Court ordered that the Secretary of State pay the claimants' costs, but only up to the point in time of her concession.

Following on from this, the litigation was settled, with both sides agreeing to bear their own costs.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs procured by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible. [83790]

Norman Baker: The requested information about the steps DFT is taking to ensure that the same standards of animal welfare for whole eggs apply to imported liquefied eggs is as follows:

DFT central Department

The central Department does not use liquefied eggs.

DVLA

DVLA do not use liquefied eggs.

PSA

The Driving Standards Agency's (DSA) supplier of shell eggs will be fully compliant with the requirements of the European Union directive 1999/74/EC on the welfare of laying hens by the end of 2011. These standards will be verified independently by representatives of the British Lion scheme, which promotes the traceability, safety and quality of British eggs. DSA's supplier of liquefied eggs uses British 'Lion Quality' Eggs to make their products.

The Highways Agency

The Highways Agency has taken no specific steps.

Other arm's length bodies

The requested information is not held for the remainder of DFT's arm's length bodies as they do not have catering contracts in place.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of food sourced by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible was procured from UK food producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [83791]

Norman Baker: The requested information for this year relating to on-site catering facilities that the Department has some direct responsibility for is as follows:

(a)

Organisational unit	*Proportion of food sourced from UK food producers*
Department for Transport headquarters building	Across all food groups over 70% of food is sourced to Farm Assured, Red Tractor and The Marine Stewards Council guidelines, depending on the time of year.
Driving Standards Agency	56%
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	61%

(b) The requested information is not held by Trinity House Lighthouse Service and Northern Lighthouse Board. Other Department for Transport non departmental public bodies either do not procure food or are minor occupiers and have no direct responsibility for on-site food procurement.

The Department cannot identify the origins of food purchased under other arrangements including as part of external room hire or conference packages.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83792]

Norman Baker: The requested information about the steps DFT is taking to ensure it meets Government's buying standards for catering is as follows.

DFT Central Department

Across all food groups DFT's caterers achieve in excess of 70% compliance with Farm Assured, Red Tractor and The Marine Stewards Council guidelines, depending on the time of year. Fruit and vegetables are very difficult to comply with as many products are not available from UK producers. But where and when they are, they always buy UK if financially viable.

Highways Agency

The Highways Agency is currently considering how most effectively to reflect the Government's Buying Standard for food and catering services via the current contractual arrangements in place for food-based facilities to be provided at some of its office locations, and future such arrangements.

DSA

The Driving Standards Agency's contractor is developing contractually-binding agreements with its key food suppliers to ensure that they will adhere to guidance set out in the Government Buying Standards (GBS) document.

They have engaged with the Agency's main food supplier to review the specific criteria of the revised GBS document and are finalising the contract amendment.

DVLA

DVLA procure all their food through the PFI Estates Contract. However, under schedule 13 of this contract, the service provider is obliged to comply with any Government guidance on sustainable food and farming, in delivering the Catering Service to the Agency. To ensure compliance, the service provider is required to produce all necessary, statutory reports relevant to the provision of the catering. A particular return required in this respect is, the 'Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative', which is produced annually and while we review and, in some cases challenge the data; there has to be a balance in terms of keeping the costs down.

Other Arm's Length Bodies

The requested information is not held for the remainder of DFT's arm's length bodies as they do not have catering contracts in place.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many unique hits her Department's website received in each of the last 12 months. [82956]

Norman Baker: Website traffic to www.dft.gov.uk over the last 12 months is as follows:

	Page views	*Visits*	*Visitors*
November 2010	4,579,391	1,485,031	1,058,312
December 2010	3,555,108	1,271,618	932,690
January 2011	4,452,713	1,588,600	1,182,001
February 2011	4,165,102	1,488,597	1,109,981
March 2011	5,086,609	1,892,725	1,431,506
April 2011	5,458,349	1,897,652	1,400,886
May 2011	6,925,905	2,232,341	1,610,012
June 2011	6,982,689	2,246,115	1,678,568
July 2011	4,340,203	1,494,544	1,131,922

	Page views	Visits	Visitors
August 2011	4,054,133	1,409,711	1,047,569
September 2011	4,019,494	1,357,722	1,028,532
October 2011	4,563,834	1,566,376	1,170,278

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what receptions and events have been hosted by her Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by third parties. [84201]

Norman Baker: The requested information is as follows:

Organisational unit	Event	Date
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	EUCARIS meeting—communications network of participating European nations to share data relating to motor vehicles and driving licences	May 2010
Vehicle Certification Agency	Biennial Open Day	June 2010
Driving Standards Agency	Association of Industrial Road Safety Officers (AIRSO) study day—attended by AIRSO members	November 2010
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	"Deadly Mates" event—joint campaign between the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Driving Standards Agency and GoSafe Road Casualty Reduction Partnership	November 2010
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	E-reg subgroup—Meeting held with registration authorities from across Europe	December 2010
Driving Standards Agency	Presentation by Loughborough University's Vehicle Research Safety Centre—Relating to the work the university was doing on driver behaviour	February 2011
DFT Central (Rail Accident Investigation Branch)	Institute of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) visit—Presentation to IMechE members on RAIB's role and work	September 2011
Driver and Vehicle and Licensing Agency	EUCARIS meeting—communications network of participating European nations to share data relating to motor vehicles and driving licences	October 2011
Driver and Vehicle and Licensing Agency	Transport Select Committee visit to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	October 2011
DFT Central (Rail Accident Investigation Branch)	Loughborough University visit—Vehicle Dynamics and Crash Worthiness Course visit	November 2011
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	UK reception for the International Maritime Organization (27th Assembly)	November 2011

This excludes all events held as part of day-to-day business of the Department including working level meetings with stakeholders.

The above also excludes events hosted at the Department for Transport headquarters building and by the Highways Agency as the requested information is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Older Workers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people her Department employs who are aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 65. [83015]

Norman Baker: On 31 October 2011 the central Department and its seven executive agencies employed:

(a) 3,490 members of staff who were aged 55 to 64; and

(b) 145 members of staff aged 65 and over.

Of this total, the central Department employed 235 members of staff aged 55 to 64, and eight members of staff aged 65 and over.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham in the latest financial year for which figures are available. [85449]

Norman Baker: In 2010-11 the Department for Transport allocated funding to the named local authorities as per the following table. This includes un-ringfenced funding for integrated transport block and highways maintenance to local transport authorities for general capital investment in transport.

Local authority	Funding (£000)
Birmingham	67,949
Bradford	13,616
Bristol	[1]17,530
Coventry	9,742
Leeds	40,013
Leicester	12,439
Liverpool	18,596
Manchester	14,118
Newcastle	8,545
Nottingham	41,974
Sheffield	11,661
Wakefield	9,751

[1] Includes Cycling Town funding both in Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

Funding that was allocated to Integrated Transport Authorities rather than individual local authorities but which covers the areas named is given in a separate table. It is not possible for the Department to disaggregate this funding. This table also includes funding for rail support given to Passenger Transport Executives but does not include the £70 million the Department provides to Merseytravel for the operation of the devolved Merseyrail network.

Integrated Transport Authority	*Funding (£000)*
Greater Manchester ITA	260,744
Merseyside ITA	39,820
South Yorkshire ITA	48,745
Tyne and Wear ITA	85,138
West Midlands ITA	37,584
West Yorkshire ITA	94,130

While some of the variation in the tables above will be due to the differing geographical sizes and transport needs of areas, funding for local major schemes, including PFI projects, has a large effect.

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant.

The Department spends funds on the strategic road network through the Highways Agency (HA). The HA's reporting systems do not record actual expenditure for local authority areas; expenditure is recorded by project and activity.

Likewise, funding for other transport projects in England, such as rail projects, and spend by other executive agencies of the Department for Transport is not available on the basis of local authority boundaries.

Electric Vehicles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had on the future of electric cars. [86243]

Norman Baker: Ministers and officials routinely discuss ultra low emission vehicles, including electric cars and meet key stakeholders including automotive manufacturers, charging infrastructure suppliers, power supply companies, other interested organisations and relevant Government Departments to inform these discussions.

First Capital Connect: Snow and Ice

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings Ministers in her Department have had with First Capital Connect on preparations for winter weather. [85796]

Norman Baker: Ministers have not held any recent meetings specifically with First Capital Connect on preparations for winter weather. However, I have discussed winter preparations with the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) representatives on a number of occasions since the summer.

Members: Correspondence

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to respond to the letter of 6 October 2011 from the hon. Member for South Northamptonshire. [85807]

Mike Penning: I replied to my hon. Friend today.

Motor Vehicles: Lights

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in how many accidents have poorly adjusted headlamps of oncoming vehicles been a contributory factor in each of the last five years. [85675]

Mike Penning: The requested information is not collected by the Department. However, Table 1 shows the number of reported personal injury road accidents in Great Britain which had (i) "defective lights or indicators" or (ii) "dazzling headlights" recorded as a contributory factor, over the period 2006 to 2010. It is not possible to identify whether poorly adjusted headlamps of oncoming vehicles contributed to these accidents.

Please note that contributory factors are reported only for injury road accidents where a police officer attended the scene and reported at least one contributory factor. These factors are largely subjective, reflecting the attending officer's opinion at the time of reporting. It is recognised that subsequent inquires could lead to the reporting officer changing his/her opinion.

Table 1: Reported personal injury road accidents[1] by selected contributory factors, Great Britain 2006 to 2010

	Number of accidents[1] with the following contributory factors attributed to the accident	
	(i) Defective lights or indicators	*(ii) Dazzling headlights*
2006	256	483
2007	226	417
2008	208	415
2009	182	365
2010	174	300

[1] Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of issuing V5C vehicle registration certificates to all owners of cars; and if she will make a statement. [85523]

Mike Penning: The new style V5C vehicle registration certificate has been issued since August 2010 to keepers of newly registered vehicles and to those keepers making changes to a vehicle's registration details. These documents would have been issued in the normal course of business and represent no extra cost.

Since October 2011, the document has also been issued for vehicles which do not already have one, when they are re-licensed or declared to be off-road. This accelerated production is expected to cover the entire national vehicle fleet within 12 months and is estimated to cost around £6 million to complete. The DVLA is taking action to recover these costs from a third party.

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency on *(a)* reducing the risk of theft of and *(b)* its procedures for safe disposal of defective blank V5C vehicle registration certificates. [86465]

Mike Penning: Since the theft of V5C vehicle registration certificates from a supplier or one of their subcontractors was identified in early 2007, discussions have taken place with the ministerial team on action to reduce the impact of the crime and changes have been made.

Processes around the destruction of defective blank V5C vehicle registration certificates have been tightened. Significant investment has been made at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to ensure all waste, spoiled or defective documents are destroyed securely on site. Also, tougher contract terms have been introduced for suppliers and more stringent audit controls surround the handling of V5C vehicle registration certificates have been put in to place.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what statutory provisions govern the time allowed to a car driver to decide whether a pay and display car parking fee is reasonable before becoming liable to pay; and if she will make a statement; [85090]

(2) what statutory provisions govern the amount of time a car may be in a pay and display car park before a car parking fee becomes payable; and if she will make a statement. [85091]

Norman Baker: There is no legislation governing these specific aspects of local authority car parks. It is entirely for the car park owner to set the terms and conditions for parking on their land.

Railways: Bicester

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the potential for greater use of Ministry of Defence rail infrastructure in and around Bicester consequent upon the re-opening of the east-west rail link from Oxford to Milton Keynes. [85764]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport officials have worked with Defence officials to ensure they are aware of the potential effect of East West Rail on the value and use of Defence land at Bicester. This includes possible re-use of the MoD railway and freight infrastructure for commercial purposes.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what planning process she expects to be followed in respect of the route and construction of the re-opening of the east-west rail link between Oxford and Milton Keynes. [85765]

Mrs Villiers: The East West Rail consortium has proposed that full use is made of the permitted development rights of the railway, combining these with existing local authority planning processes to expedite construction and reopening.

Railways: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 891W, on railways: private sector and with reference to page 104 of the Office of Rail Regulation's (ORR) National Rail Trends Yearbook: 2010-11, whether she has requested from the ORR a list of the total investment in the railway industry received from each *(a)* train operating company, *(b)* rolling stock company, *(c)* freight company and *(d)* Network Rail in each year from 2006-07 to date; and if she will place this information in the Library. [R] [85685]

Mrs Villiers: The Department has not requested this information from ORR. With regard to investment in rolling stock, I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1020-21W. Network Rail publishes details of its investment annually in its Delivery Plans. These are available on Network Rail's website.

Roads: Accidents

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injuries have occurred on roads in Pendle constituency in the last 12 months. [85753]

Mike Penning: In the 2010 calendar year (the latest period for which information is available), one person was killed and 34 were seriously injured in reported road accidents in the Pendle parliamentary constituency.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of staged car accidents in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate has been made of the effects of such accidents on *(a)* car insurance premiums and *(b)* other costs to motorists. [85754]

Mike Penning: The Department has made no estimate of the number of staged car accidents, or the effect of such accidents on motor insurance premiums and other costs to motorists.

Detecting such incidents is largely for the insurance industry who set up the Insurance Fraud Bureau (IFB) to detect and prevent organised fraud. The industry has also agreed to fund a specialist insurance fraud police unit due to go live by January 2012.

Roads: Manholes

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to improve the standard of grip for *(a)* two wheeled vehicles on manholes and *(b)* inspection covers on roads in England. [85672]

Norman Baker: The majority of manhole and inspection covers placed on the highway network are the responsibility of utility companies, with a small percentage under the ownership of local highway authorities, and so are not the responsibility of the Department for Transport.

However, the Department has been working with the Institute of Highways and Incorporated Engineers (IHIE) to develop Guidelines for Motorcycling. Section 6.3.16 of the guide encourages designers and maintenance engineers to ensure that covers should not be positioned in the carriageway so as to impose a hazard to motorcyclists. The guide may be viewed on the IHIE website at:

www.motorcyclingguidelines.org.uk

In addition, the British and European Standard (prEN124) on "gully tops and manhole tops for vehicular and pedestrian areas" has been going through revision. One of the areas being considered as part of this work is the in-service skid slip resistance of the covers. Consideration is also being given to an enhanced skid slip resistance value to improve consistency between the road surface and service covers placed in the highway.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the cooling time for bituminous paving materials used on roads for the purposes of determining reasonable times for such works to be carried out. [86069]

Mike Penning: There are a number of controlling factors for determining reasonable times for works to be carried out and the associated cooling times for modern bituminous paving materials. The principal ones are the material type, the weather conditions (air temperature and wind speed) and the thickness that the material is to be laid at.

On behalf of my Department, the Highways Agency has carried out extensive research in this field over many years. The Highways Agency's Specification for Highways Works

http://www.dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/mchw/vol1/index.htm

incorporates the outcomes from the research, taking account of the modern bituminous materials used for pavement construction on the strategic road network. Research is ongoing into bituminous paving materials that can be laid at lower temperatures. As these materials are mixed and laid at lower temperatures, they can be compacted and opened to traffic more quickly than conventional bituminous materials. The research will determine whether these materials are suitable for the heavy traffic using the strategic road network.

Steria

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts her Department has awarded to Steria since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each contract. [85478]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not awarded any contracts to Steria since May 2010.

Tottenham Hale-Brimsdown Railway Line

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has made an assessment of the need for a third rail track between Tottenham Hale and Brimsdown on the line between London Liverpool Street Station and Cambridge. [85892]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have not made an assessment of whether a third rail track is needed between Tottenham Hale and Brimsdown on the line between London Liverpool Street station and Cambridge. In its London and South East Route Utilisation Strategy, Network Rail assessed a number of infrastructure options on this line—including a third track between Lea Bridge and Brimsdown—and has now proposed an alternative intervention at Brimsdown in its initial industry plan. The Government will set out their requirements for the railway for the five year period from 2014 to 2019 in the High Level Output Specification, to be published in July 2012.

JUSTICE

Free Schools: Planning Permission

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 1042W, on free schools: planning permission, whether (1) his Department would return any capital receipts received from the sale of *(a)* Balham youth court, *(b)* Haringey magistrates court, (c) Mid-Sussex magistrates court and *(d)* Sutton Coldfield magistrates court; [85902]

(2) *(a)* Balham youth court, *(b)* Haringey magistrates court, *(c)* Mid-Sussex magistrates court and *(d)* Sutton Coldfield magistrates court are being offered for sale at market value. [85944]

Mr Djanogly: These courts will be sold at market value and the capital receipts retained by the Ministry of Justice to delivery justice services.

Alternatives to Prison: Females

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the provision of alternatives to custody for women offenders; and if he will make a statement. [85496]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has provided funding to help sustain a network of women-only community provision and has given a commitment to services with a proven track record of tackling offending behaviour among women from 2012-13. NOMS also makes available accommodation to defendants, who would otherwise be remanded in custody, through the Bail Accommodation and Support Service. Finally, we are working with the Department of Health to ensure that offenders with mental health problems receive treatment in the most appropriate and secure setting necessary.

Bail

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were bailed from the courts in each of the last five years. [86039]

Mr Blunt: The total number of defendants remanded on bail at all courts in England and Wales from 2006 to 2010 can be viewed in the following table.

Defendants remanded on bail at magistrates courts[1] or the Crown court, 2006-10[2], England and Wales

Defendants (thousand)

	Defendants bailed by magistrates courts[1,3]	*Defendants bailed by the Crown court[1,3]*	*Defendants bailed by either court[1,3]*
2006	500.7	61.6	562.3
2007	420.7	64.6	485.2

Defendants remanded on bail at magistrates courts[1] or the Crown court, 2006-10[2], England and Wales

Defendants (thousand)

	Defendants bailed by magistrates courts[1,3]	*Defendants bailed by the Crown court[1,3]*	*Defendants bailed by either court[1,3]*
2008	478.6	66.5	545.1
2009	597.0	72.8	669.8
2010	587.0	82.4	669.4

[1] Includes those also held in custody at some stage and those failing to appear to bail.
[2] Magistrates courts data for 2010 are estimated.
[3] Excludes defendants reported as failing to appear to a summons although some of these cases, having been initiated by a summons may have resulted in the defendant being remanded on bail.
Note:
Some figures may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Birmingham: Grants

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department plans to incur by way of *(a)* ring-fenced and *(b)* non ring-fenced grants in Birmingham in each of the next three years. [85539]

Mr Djanogly: The Department's planned expenditure by way of grants to organisations in Birmingham for 2012-13 and 2013-14 is shown in the following table.

£

	2012-13	*2013-14*
Ring-fenced	76,555	79,949
Non ring-fenced	60,000	60,000
Total	136,555	139,949

Decisions have not yet been taken on grant funding allocations for 2014-15.

In addition to providing grants to organisations based in Birmingham, the Department also provides grants to some national organisations, which are not specific to Birmingham.

The figures above relate to the core Department. The Youth Justice Board (YJB), an Executive non-departmental public body of the Ministry of Justice, will be providing a grant to the Birmingham youth offending team in each of the next three years. The size of these grants has yet to be determined.

YJB grants are not officially termed as a ring-fenced, but in the context of their narrow statutory powers, such grants are only to be spent on matters relating to youth justice.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assets his Department owns in Birmingham; and what is the estimated value of each such asset. [85540]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice owns 14 freehold properties in Birmingham. We do not hold up-to-date data on the market value of all properties. Gathering this information would require a survey of the properties.

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards; [85830]

(2) what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure the country of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85831]

Mr Blunt: Currently, the means for each prison to calculate the calorific value of their individual menus is not available. To do this in all cases would require a full evaluation and is likely to require major capital investment at a time when public spending is under severe constraint. While MOJ are looking at aspects of menu provision including identifying calorific values for certain recipes, there are currently no plans to include such information on daily menus.

NOMS sets out the specification for catering in the prison service Instruction 44/2010 which contains a set of minimum standards for prisons to implement. Prison catering managers publish in advance pre-select menus covering between three and five weeks which are rotated over several months.

Food for prisons is purchased and delivered through mandated suppliers who have to comply with Food Labelling Regulations 1996. The voluntary inclusion of country of origin is not a requirement for all foods. Suppliers will procure food from several different countries based on price and availability. Prisons will often not know the country of origin of some products until the day of delivery prohibiting this detail from being included on previously published menus.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85661]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice set out its strategic approach to competition in the Offender Services Competition Strategy[1]. This included defining a clear set of principles. These comprise:

competition activity should be focused on achieving mid to long-term savings, not finding the cheapest solution at the expense of quality;

competition should be used to deliver public sector reforms, ensuring providers are more effectively held to account for the outcomes they deliver;

providers should be involved early to identify where efficiencies could be realised in national or process-based functions through competition;

small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) should be encouraged to participate to drive innovation; and

competition should be widely applied, with public sector providers allowed to bid where we are competing localised services and robustly held to account where successful.

[1] http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/moj/oscs.htm

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [85708]

Mr Djanogly: Each of the Ministry's public bodies is responsible for assessing which risks they are responsible for, and for putting in place the appropriate processes to monitor and manage those risks.

For many of the MOJ's public bodies, the Department will monitor and manage the risks (for example, when a public body is located within a MOJ building the MOJ corporate centre will have responsibility for any accommodation risks).

Risk registers are held by the following MOJ public bodies:

Arms Length Body

Judicial Office of England and Wales
Civil Justice Council
Family Justice Council
Office for Judicial Complaints
HM Chief Inspectorate of Prisons
HM Chief Inspectorate of Probation
Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)
Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman (JACO)
Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC)
Office of Public Guardian
Law Commission
Legal Services Board (LSB)
Office for Legal Complaints (OLC)
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman
Sentencing Council for England and Wales
Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB)
Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC)
Administrative Justice and Tribunal Council (AJTC)
Court Funds Office (CFO)
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA)
Official Solicitor and Public Trustee (OSPT)
Parole Board
HMCTS
NOMS
Legal Services Commission

Members: Correspondence

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Croydon North of 19 July 2011 concerning the circumstances leading to the death of the right hon. Member's constituent, Umesh Chaudhary. [78706]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have now replied. I am very sorry for the delay.

Offender Assessment System

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his planned review and redesign of the Asset structured assessment tool, whether he has any plans to similarly update the Offender Assessment System. [85432]

Mr Blunt: The Offender Assessment System (OASys) is periodically updated to ensure that it provides a reliable and valid assessment tool based on the latest research evidence.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Offender Assessment System includes a section to identify speech, language or communication needs in adult offenders. [85433]

Mr Blunt: The Offender Assessment System (OASys) does record whether the offender has required the use of an interpreter, what language the offender speaks and whether the offender has communication needs. The offender can also record any such needs within the OASys Self Assessment Questionnaire.

Police Cautions

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provision he has made for public scrutiny of the practice of conditional cautioning. [85958]

Mr Blunt: We are considering how transparency of out of court disposals could be improved in developing a clearer framework for their use. We will work with partners across the criminal justice system to widen access to information and education for the public and practitioners to increase the awareness and understanding of conditional cautions. This will help the public to have greater confidence that conditional cautions and other informal and formal disposals are being utilised effectively and appropriately.

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost per year is of accommodating a prisoner serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection. [86035]

Mr Blunt: The average annual overall cost per prisoner in England and Wales for financial year 2010-11 is £37,000 (to nearest £1,000). The cost of a prisoner serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection (IPP) is not separately calculated.

Average prisoner costs are calculated for each prison establishment and grouped by prison function on the basis of the major use of each prison. The calculations do not analyse costs by type of sentence or prisoner, and as a prisoner serving an indeterminate sentence may be held in prison establishments of different functions during the course of the sentence, an average cost for a prisoner serving an IPP is not available.

The calculation for cost per prisoner is based on net resource expenditure related to prisons included in the annual accounts of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) expressed in terms of the average prison population. This includes some estimation. Expenditure which is met by other Government Departments, such as expenditure on health and education, is not included. Expenditure recharged to the Youth Justice Board in respect of young people is included.

Indeterminate sentence prisoners may be held in any prison providing it is appropriate to the security category of the prisoner and is best placed to meet the next identified need in the sentence plan.

Full details of average cost per prisoner by prison function for financial year 2010-11 can be accessed from the Ministry of Justice website under Management Information Addendum at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/noms/annual-report-accounts-2010-11.htm

Prisons: Energy Efficiency

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons have installed energy efficiency measures since May 2010. [86078]

Mr Blunt: Since May 2010 all public sector prisons have been part of a Carbon Trust carbon management programme (CMP). This has resulted in 51 sites installing energy saving technology directly, with a further five sites having replacement equipment under the major maintenance programme.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the average annual heating and lighting costs in prisons if all prisons reached Energy Performance Certificate grade *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C, *(d)* D, *(e)* E, *(f)* F and *(g)* G level. [86080]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is unable to provide the average annual heating and lighting costs in prisons if all prisons reached Energy Performance Certificate grade *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C, *(d)* D, *(e)* E, *(f)* F and *(g)* G level as the information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average Energy Performance Certificate rating is of the prison estate. [86082]

Mr Blunt: The average Energy Performance Certificate rating of the prison estate is based on Display Energy Certificates (DEC) assessments of energy use in occupied buildings.

The average DEC rating of the prison estate is 90.08 (sample size 131 sites).

Prosecutions: Fireworks

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* fixed penalties were issued and *(b)* prosecutions were brought relating to the misuse of fireworks in (i) St Helens South and Whiston constituency, (ii) Merseyside and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [84659]

Mr Blunt: Data on the number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued in the Merseyside police force area and England for offences related to the misuse of fireworks and defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for throwing fireworks, in each year between 2006 and 2010 (latest currently available), can be viewed in the table. These data are not available at constituency level.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Defendants given penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) for offences related to fireworks and defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates courts for throwing fireworks[2], in the Merseyside police force area and England, in each year between 2006-10

Area/offence	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Merseyside					
PNDs issued:					
Breach of fireworks curfew[3]	1	1	—	—	—
Possession of category 4 firework[3]	3	2	2	1	—
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework[3]	10	5	6	7	7
Throwing fireworks	27	20	19	28	26
Proceedings at magistrates courts:					
Throwing fireworks	1	—	2	1	1
England					
PNDs issued:					
Breach of fireworks curfew[3]	51	37	19	13	23
Possession of category 4 firework[3]	25	22	23	56	22
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework[3]	73	101	63	58	60
Throwing fireworks	639	607	500	317	330
Proceedings at magistrates courts:					
Throwing fireworks	32	28	28	18	25

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Explosives Act 1875, section 80: Throwing, casting or firing any fireworks in or into any highway, street, public place etc.
[3] Fireworks Regulations 2004 under section 11 of the Fireworks Act 2003.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Reoffenders

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of suspended sentences which have been breached by offenders in *(a)* Leicestershire, *(b)* the East Midlands region and *(c)* England in the last 12 months. [85941]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on breaches of suspended sentence orders (SSOs) by individual offenders is recorded by probation trusts on their case management systems. It is used in the day-to-day management of offenders, including as a trigger to appropriate action in response to breach, for example through formal warnings or enforcement action, but data on the total number of breaches do not form part of trusts' routine reporting.

However, data are available on the reasons for termination of SSOs. These reasons include successful completion of the order as well as early termination for failure to comply with requirements or for conviction of a further offence.

The numbers of successful and unsuccessful completions of SSOs for 2010-11 for *(a)* Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust, *(b)* the East Midlands region and *(c)* for England are set out in the following table:

Suspended sentence orders, 2010-11

	Successful terminations (number)	*Unsuccessful terminations (number)*	*Total successful and unsuccessful terminations (number)*	*Percentage of unsuccessful terminations*
(a) Leicestershire and Rutland	551	273	824	33.1
(b) East Midlands	2,368	1,150	3,518	32.7
(c) England	29,037	11,450	40,487	28.3

The figures are a sub-set of the figures used to calculate the rate of successful completion of orders and licences published in the NOMS Annual Report 2010-11: Management Information Addendum:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/hmps/noms-annual-report-2010-11-addendum.pdf

It should be noted that the figures in the column for total successful and unsuccessful completions do not constitute all SSOs which terminated during the period. There are in addition a number which terminate for other reasons, such as a conditional discharge or the death of the offender, which are treated as 'neutral' for the purposes of the NOMS indicator and therefore excluded from the calculation.

The figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Not all breaches of SSOs will result in early termination. In line with National Standards for the Management of Offenders 2011 and the accompanying draft Practice Framework an offender who fails to comply with the terms of his or her supervision on a community order or suspended sentence order may be given one formal warning in any 12-month period on an order before breach action becomes required.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much direct funding his Department has allocated to each civil society organisation in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [74818]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice funds a large number of organisations that provide a wide range of services, such as the provision of support for victims of crime, mediation services, work to reduce crime and debt advice. To determine which of those are civil society organisations and how much is specifically paid or allocated to each of them over this five-year period could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Victims: Commissioner

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to appoint a new Victims Commissioner. [81555]

Mr Blunt: We are considering the future of the role and intend to make an announcement shortly. We regard it as important that the voice of victims is heard by policy makers across the criminal justice system.

Young Offenders Institutions

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours on average young offenders aged *(a)* under 18-years-old and *(b)* between 18 and 20 years spent out of cells on (i) weekdays and (ii) weekends at each Young Offenders Institution in each month since April 2005. [85561]

Mr Blunt: Data for time out of cell on weekdays are collated by overall prison establishment and are not disaggregated for different prisoner age groups in individual establishments. Data are no longer collated for time out of cell on weekends but are available for the period April 2005 to March 2008.

Figures for time out of cell for each young offender institute (aged 18 to 20) and each young offender institute holding young persons (aged under 18) for each month since April 2005 are set out in a table for weekdays and weekends where available. The table has been deposited in the Library.

The figures used in the answer have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Young Offenders: Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Youth Justice Board paid, including VAT per person for a place in *(a)* a secure children's

home, *(b)* a secure training centre, *(c)* a publicly-run young offenders' institution and *(d)* a privately-run young offenders institution in the latest year for which figures are available. [86022]

Mr Blunt: The average prices, including VAT where charged, paid by the Youth Justice Board per child or young person placed in a secure children's home, secure training centre or a publicly run young offender institution as of 1 April 2011 are set out in the following table. For reasons of commercial sensitivity I am not able to provide information in respect of privately run young offender institutions. As not all types of youth secure accommodation attract a charge for VAT, the figures do not reflect the price of the services delivered on a like for like basis.

Type of youth secure accommodation	*Average cost per place per year as of 1 April 2011 (£)*[1]
Secure children's home	211,000
Secure training centre	203,000
Public young offender institution	55,000

Notes:
1. Secure children's homes—these services do not attract VAT.
2. Secure training centres—these services do attract VAT.
3. Publicly-run young offender institutions do not attract VAT.
4. Privately-run young offender institutions do attract VAT.
5. These are costs to the YJB as at 1 April 2011. They are not intended to represent the total cost of providing custody and related services to young people. For example, they do not include YJB funding to NOMS Prisoner Escort Management (PEM) for the provision of Prison Escort and Custodial Services (PECS) for young people.
6. For court ordered secure remand places (in the STC and SCH sectors) the YJB recovers one third of the costs from the home local authorities.

[1] Including VAT where charged. To the nearest £1,000.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Information on a prisoner's residence is provided by prisoners on reception into prison and recorded on a central IT system. Addresses can include a prisoner's home address, an address to which they intend to return on discharge or next of kin address and these figures are provided in the above table.

If no address is given, a prisoner's committal court address is used as a proxy for the area in which a prisoner is resident. These figures are also included in the table above. No address has been recorded and no court information is available for around 3% of all prisoners, these figures are excluded from the table.

Youth Custody: Enfield

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders aged 18 to 20 from the London borough of Enfield have been held in *(a)* young offender institutions, *(b)* local prisons, *(c)* women's prisons and *(d)* other parts of the secure estate in each month since May 2009. [85259]

Mr Blunt: All young offenders serving sentences of DYOI are held in appropriately designated YOI accommodation within the prison estate. The majority of this accommodation is in dedicated YOIs, although some establishments in the estate have a dual designation (designated both as a prison and a YOI) and hold both adult prisoners and young offenders.

The following table shows the number of remand or convicted unsentenced and convicted and sentenced male and female prisoners aged 18 to 20-years-old with a recorded residential address or proxy in the London borough of Enfield who were held in predominant function male young offender institutions, predominant function male local prisons, all female prisons and the rest of the male estate on a set day in each month where data are available since May 2009.

Number and location of male and female young adult offenders (aged 18 to 20) originating from London borough of Enfield

	2009	*2010*		*2011*				
Location	*May*	*September*	*November*	*January*	*March*	*May*	*July*	*September*
(a) Male young offender institutions	51	34	27	29	30	24	23	36
(b) Male local prisons	7	7	<5	<5	<5	5	<5	<5
(c) Female prisons	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
(d) Rest of the male estate	<5	<5	<5	5	5	5	8	6

EDUCATION

Academies

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* academies and *(b)* free schools there are in each local authority in England. [84923]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* As of 1 December there are now 24 free schools and 1,463 open academies of which 319 are sponsored and 1,144 are converters. Details of how many are in each local authority as at 1 November are included in the following table.

Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened, can be found on the DFE academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

Table 1: Number of open academies, by academy type and local authority[1] November 2011, England

Local authority	Academy converters	Sponsored academies	Free schools	Total
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	0	0
Barnet	12	2	1	15
Barnsley	0	1	0	1
Bath and North East Somerset	9	0	0	9
Bedford	9	1	0	10
Bexley	10	5	0	15
Birmingham	17	7	1	25
Blackburn with Darwen	1	1	0	2
Blackpool	1	0	0	1
Bolton	2	3	0	5
Bournemouth	3	2	0	5
Bracknell Forest	1	0	0	1
Bradford	2	5	2	9
Brent	1	4	0	5
Brighton and Hove	0	2	0	2
Bristol City of	6	9	1	16
Bromley	24	1	0	25
Buckinghamshire	21	2	0	23
Bury	1	0	0	1
Calderdale	14	1	0	15
Cambridgeshire	27	0	0	27
Camden	0	0	1	1
Central Bedfordshire	16	1	0	17
Cheshire East	7	1	1	9
Cheshire West and Chester	3	2	0	5
City of London	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	38	1	0	39
Coventry	6	2	0	8
Croydon	6	7	0	13
Cumbria	19	4	0	23
Darlington	10	1	0	11
Derby	3	1	0	4
Derbyshire	10	2	0	12
Devon	42	1	0	43
Doncaster	8	5	0	13
Dorset	3	0	0	3
Dudley	2	0	0	2
Durham	6	1	0	7
Ealing	3	1	0	4
East Riding of Yorkshire	7	0	0	7
East Sussex	1	3	0	4
Enfield	3	4	1	8
Essex	58	8	0	66
Gateshead	1	0	0	1
Gloucestershire	41	2	0	43
Greenwich	1	1	0	2
Hackney	1	5	0	6
Halton	2	1	0	3
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	2	2	5
Hampshire	21	2	0	23
Haringey	1	1	1	3
Harrow	7	0	0	7
Hartlepool	0	0	0	0
Havering	10	1	0	11

Table 1: Number of open academies, by academy type and local authority[1] November 2011, England

Local authority	Academy converters	Sponsored academies	Free schools	Total
Herefordshire	12	2	0	14
Hertfordshire	31	2	0	33
Hillingdon	11	2	0	13
Hounslow	4	0	0	4
Isle of Wight	0	2	0	2
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0
Islington	2	2	0	4
Kensington and Chelsea	0	1	0	1
Kent	50	17	0	67
Kingston upon Hull City of	0	2	0	2
Kingston upon Thames	4	0	0	4
Kirklees	7	0	1	8
Knowsley	0	0	0	0
Lambeth	5	2	0	7
Lancashire	15	2	1	18
Leeds	5	4	0	9
Leicester	0	1	1	2
Leicestershire	9	0	0	9
Lewisham	1	3	0	4
Lincolnshire	31	8	0	39
Liverpool	1	5	0	6
Luton	2	3	1	6
Manchester	2	9	0	11
Medway	10	4	0	14
Merton	0	2	0	2
Middlesbrough	0	3	0	3
Milton Keynes	10	1	0	11
Newcastle upon Tyne	2	1	0	3
Newham	2	0	0	2
Norfolk	9	6	1	16
North East Lincolnshire	9	4	0	13
North Lincolnshire	2	1	0	3
North Somerset	4	1	0	5
North Tyneside	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	8	0	0	8
Northamptonshire	13	6	0	19
Northumberland	2	2	0	4
Nottingham	9	5	0	14
Nottinghamshire	14	4	0	18
Oldham	4	3	0	7
Oxfordshire	2	3	0	5
Peterborough	3	4	0	7
Plymouth	10	2	0	12
Poole	4	1	0	5
Portsmouth	0	1	0	1
Reading	6	1	1	8
Redbridge	3	0	1	4
Redcar and Cleveland	0	1	0	1
Richmond upon Thames	0	3	0	3
Rochdale	1	1	0	2
Rotherham	3	1	0	4
Rutland	4	0	0	4
Salford	2	2	0	4
Sandwell	1	6	0	7
Sefton	7	0	0	7
Sheffield	1	3	0	4
Shropshire	2	0	0	2

Table 1: Number of open academies, by academy type and local authority[1] November 2011, England

Local authority	Academy converters	Sponsored academies	Free schools	Total
Slough	5	1	1	7
Solihull	8	4	0	12
Somerset	29	1	0	30
South Gloucestershire	0	4	0	4
South Tyneside	1	0	0	1
Southampton	3	2	0	5
Southend-on-Sea	8	0	0	8
Southwark	5	9	0	14
St. Helens	0	2	0	2
Staffordshire	10	6	0	16
Stockport	1	1	0	2
Stockton-on-Tees	0	2	0	2
Stoke-on-Trent	2	5	0	7
Suffolk	19	3	1	23
Sunderland	4	3	0	7
Surrey	17	0	0	17
Sutton	14	0	0	14
Swindon	16	1	0	17
Tameside	3	2	0	5
Telford and Wrekin	3	2	0	5
Thurrock	6	2	0	8
Torbay	8	0	0	8
Tower Hamlets	0	0	1	1
Trafford	8	0	0	8
Wakefield	10	1	0	11
Walsall	6	3	0	9
Waltham Forest	4	1	0	5
Wandsworth	3	1	0	4
Warrington	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	12	2	1	15
West Berkshire	3	0	0	3
West Sussex	5	5	1	11
Westminster	2	4	1	7
Wigan	1	0	0	1
Wiltshire	18	2	0	20
Windsor and Maidenhead	1	0	0	1
Wirral	6	2	0	8
Wokingham	3	0	0	3
Wolverhampton	0	2	0	2
Worcestershire	17	1	0	18
York	2	0	0	2
Total	1,100	319	24	1,443

[1] School numbers include special academies.

Source:
Edubase, November 2011

Academies: School Meals

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish the results of research commissioned from the School Food Trust on nutritional standards in academies. [81137]

Mr Gibb: Results of the work commissioned from the School Food Trust are expected to be published in spring 2012.

Education: Rural Areas

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he has given to providing additional grants to rural areas for the purposes of access to educational services. [83994]

Mr Gibb: Our recent consultation on reforming the school funding system looked carefully at how rural schools should be supported. The Department for Education is considering responses to the consultation and discussing options with interested parties, including those who represent rural areas, before we decide how to proceed. We aim to consult on more detailed proposals in the spring.

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the selection *(a)* criteria and *(b)* process were for the recent grant awarded by his Department for free school pre-application support. [84544]

Mr Gibb: The selection criteria and process were described in the public guidance for applicants for the grant. This has been placed in the House Libraries.

GCSE: North-west England

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of *(a)* looked after children and *(b)* other children gained five GCSEs or equivalent at grades A* to C in each of the last five years for (i) the borough of Wirral and (ii) the North West region; and how many of those included GCSEs or equivalent in English and mathematics. [85810]

Tim Loughton: This information will be published shortly. I will write to the hon. Member in due course and place a copy of the letter in the House Libraries.

New Schools Network

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what agreement the New Schools Network concluded with the Appointments Commission to enable it to recruit for staff to launch free schools. [84728]

Mr Gibb: Consistent with similar grant agreements, the Department for Education did not require New Schools Network (NSN) to agree staff appointments with the Appointments Commission. NSN's staff do not launch free schools; they advise and support groups who are seeking to establish free schools.

Pupil Exclusions

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in each secondary school year group were permanently excluded from *(a)* academies, *(b)* free schools and *(c)* other schools in (i) the 2011-12 academic year to date and (ii) each of the previous three academic years. [82906]

Mr Gibb: Information on the number of permanent exclusions in academies and other state-funded secondary schools from 2007/08 to 2009/10 is shown in the table. Information for 2010/11 and 2011/12 has not yet been collected, and as a result there is no available information on free schools.

Academies and other state-funded secondary schools[1,2]—Number and percentage of permanent exclusions by secondary school national curriculum year group[3,4], England, 2007/08 to 2009/10

	2007/08				2008/09				2009/10			
	Academies		Other state-funded secondary schools[1,2]		Academies		Other state-funded secondary schools[1,2]		Academies		Other state-funded secondary schools[1,2]	
National curriculum year group	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
7	20	0.17	540	0.10	30	0.15	400	0.07	70	0.20	320	0.06
8	70	0.55	1,130	0.20	80	0.36	930	0.17	130	0.39	770	0.14
9	90	0.74	1,880	0.33	110	0.54	1,450	0.27	160	0.49	1,210	0.23
10	80	0.60	2,040	0.36	90	0.46	1,710	0.31	150	0.48	1,460	0.28
11	40	0.32	880	0.15	50	0.23	610	0.11	70	0.22	580	0.11
12	[6]—	[6]—	20	0.01	[6]—	[6]—	20	0.01	10	0.05	30	0.01
13	0	0.00	[6]—	[6]—	0	0.00	[6]—	[6]—	0	0.00	10	0.01
14	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	[8]—	[6]—	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total[7]	310	0.42	6,690	0.21	370	0.31	5,330	0.17	590	0.30	4,430	0.14
No of schools	83	[8]—	3,300	[8]—	133	[8]—	3,228	[8]—	203	[8]—	3,130	[8]—

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges.
[3] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.
[4] Secondary school National Curriculum Year Groups are classed as years 7 and above.
[5] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of all pupils in academies and other state-funded secondary schools by National Curriculum Year Group as at January each year.
[6] Less than 5 exclusions or a percentage based on less than 5 exclusions.
[7] Total includes some permanent exclusions where National Curriculum Year Group is below year 7 or not known.
[8] Not applicable.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

Pupil Premium

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of his Department's budget for the pupil premium has been spent on students in Pendle constituency since April 2011. [84730]

Mr Gibb: Schools in the Pendle constituency have been allocated £1.096 million for the pupil premium in 2011-12. This is equivalent to 0.176% of the £625 million budget for the pupil premium in 2011-2012. To date, £483,115 has been paid to Lancashire county council for schools in Pendle. The remaining £612,885 will be paid in two instalments in December 2011 and March 2012.

School Meals

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to ensure healthy school meal standards. [84478]

Sarah Teather: New standards for school food in maintained schools were introduced, through legislation, in 2007. The regulations set out a combination of food-based and nutrient-based standards.

Governing bodies of maintained schools and local authorities are legally responsible for meeting the school food standards. If they do not, any person may complain, through the normal local routes and ultimately to the Secretary of State, who can then issue a direction to the school if necessary.

Parents play an important role in monitoring the quality of food at their children's school. We expect maintained schools, as a minimum, to have arrangements in place to meet the standards. The School Food Trust will be able to offer help and share examples of good practice.

School Standards

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to seek to ensure that schools which did not meet the Government's GCSE targets in 2011 do so in future years. [83145]

Mr Gibb: Sponsored academies are seen as the central solution for dealing with serious, long-term underperformance in all schools.

When the 2011 secondary school performance tables containing data fully checked and agreed by schools are published in January, we will be looking at those schools that fall below the floor standard and, working with the school and their LA, we will seek to achieve the best possible solution to improve their performance. In most cases that solution will be to secure an academy sponsor to provide the necessary support and challenge for the school.

Students: Finance

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many learners aged 19 years at the start of their course claimed Care to Learn in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011 to date; [85360]

(2) what the total expenditure was on learners claiming Care to Learn who were aged 19 years at the start of their course in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011 to date; and what the average expenditure per individual claimant was in each year. [85361]

Mr Gibb: These are matters for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the Care to Learn scheme for the Department for Education. Peter

Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish the outcome of his consultation on Care to Learn; and how many responses the consultation has received. [85377]

Mr Gibb: The DFE consultation on options for the future of the Care to Learn scheme received 329 responses. We plan to publish the full consultation response on the DFE website shortly.

Teenage Pregnancy

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teenage pregnancies there were in England in each year since 1997; and how many there were in each local authority in the most recent period for which figures are available. [84881]

Sarah Teather: England has declining teenage pregnancy rates. Between 1998 and 2009 (the latest data available), under-18 conceptions have fallen by 18.1% to the lowest rate in almost 30 years. Over the same period, 95% (142 out of 150) of local authorities have seen a decline in their under-18 conception rates. However, this varies significantly with some areas achieving reductions of over 30%.

The England latest quarterly rates for 2010 continue to fall. Annual under-18 conception data for 2010 will be published in February 2012.

I have set out the specific information requested on teenage pregnancies in the following tables.

Table A: Conceptions to girls under 18, 1997 to 2009

	Number of conceptions to under-18s	*Rate per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17*
1997	40,463	45.5
1998	41,089	46.6
1999	39,247	44.8
2000	38,699	43.6
2001	38,461	42.5
2002	39,350	42.7
2003	39,553	42.1
2004	39,593	41.6
2005	39,804	41.3
2006	39,170	40.6
2007	40,366	41.8
2008	38,783	40.5
2009	35,966	38.2

Table B: Conceptions to under-18s by top-tier local authority, 2009

	Number of conceptions to under-18s	*Rate per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17*
Darlington UA	87	48.0
Hartlepool UA	106	57.3
Middlesbrough UA	174	60.4
Redcar and Cleveland UA	139	51.7
Stockton-on-Tees UA	164	42.6
County Durham UA	408	44.0
Northumberland UA	195	34.9
Gateshead MCD	145	42.1
Newcastle upon Tyne MCD	210	47.5
North Tyneside MCD	148	42.9

Table B: Conceptions to under-18s by top-tier local authority, 2009

	Number of conceptions to under-18s	*Rate per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17*
South Tyneside MCD	161	57.8
Sunderland MCD	288	52.8
Blackburn with Darwen UA	121	39.3
Blackpool UA	183	67.4
Halton UA	140	58.9
Warrington UA	155	42.2
Cheshire East UA	197	29.3
Cheshire West and Chester UA	201	33.3
Cumbria	369	39.6
Bolton MCD	251	47.9
Bury MCD	137	37.6
Manchester MCD	491	67.2
Oldham MCD	190	42.3
Rochdale MCD	200	47.7
Salford MCD	221	54.1
Stockport MCD	198	37.6
Tameside MCD	255	60.1
Trafford MCD	119	29.7
Wigan MCD	304	50.2
Lancashire County	893	39.4
Knowsley MCD	137	41.9
Liverpool MCD	369	50.1
Sefton MCD	165	29.3
St Helens MCD	167	45.0
Wirral MCD	264	44.0
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	214	34.7
Kingston upon Hull UA	316	64.0
North East Lincolnshire UA	192	59.7
North Lincolnshire UA	136	45.2
York UA	83	26.6
North Yorkshire County	295	25.8
Barnsley MCD	230	52.5
Doncaster MCD	284	51.8
Rotherham MCD	233	46.6
Sheffield MCD	394	42.9
Bradford MCD	430	41.0
Calderdale MCD	184	47.4
Kirklees MCD	370	48.5
Leeds MCD	618	47.4
Wakefield MCD	309	49.3
Derby UA	233	51.0
Leicester UA	251	47.1
Nottingham UA	290	61.5
Rutland UA	17	13.7
Derbyshire County	477	33.3
Leicestershire County	323	27.6
Lincolnshire	475	37.5
Northamptonshire	525	40.2
Nottinghamshire County	495	34.6
Herefordshire, County of UA	102	31.2
Stoke-on-Trent UA	258	61.1
Telford and Wrekin UA	172	52.7
Shropshire UA	160	28.4
Staffordshire County	631	39.8
Warwickshire	355	36.3
Birmingham MCD	975	48.7
Coventry MCD	335	59.7
Dudley MCD	238	41.5
Sandwell MCD	304	52.7
Solihull MCD	122	28.6

Table B: Conceptions to under-18s by top-tier local authority, 2009

	Number of conceptions to under-18s	Rate per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17
Walsall MCD	307	59.4
Wolverhampton MCD	242	52.6
Worcestershire County	351	33.6
Luton UA	109	29.4
Peterborough UA	171	54.5
Southend-on-Sea UA	128	43.7
Thurrock UA	107	37.0
Bedford UA	115	39.5
Central Bedfordshire UA	153	32.5
Cambridgeshire County	305	28.4
Essex County	814	31.4
Hertfordshire	501	23.5
Norfolk	532	36.7
Suffolk	373	28.5
Camden LB	80	28.4
Hackney LB and City of London	163	48.6
Hammersmith and Fulham LB	103	49.3
Haringey LB	171	51.1
Islington LB	117	48.6
Kensington and Chelsea LB	41	21.0
Lambeth LB	218	59.5
Lewisham LB	235	55.6
Newham LB	220	50.3
Southwark LB	233	63.2
Tower Hamlets LB	132	40.7
Wandsworth LB	128	46.9
Westminster City of LB	87	37.6
Barking and Dagenham LB	196	54.3
Barnet LB	142	23.0
Bexley LB	171	37.3
Brent LB	158	38.2
Bromley LB	211	38.1
Croydon LB	295	45.7
Ealing LB	168	34.1
Enfield LB	208	38.5
Greenwich LB	206	58.6
Harrow LB	87	21.8
Havering LB	170	36.4
Hillingdon LB	164	35.3
Hounslow LB	136	37.4
Kingston upon Thames LB	65	25.7
Merton LB	110	37.9
Redbridge LB	181	34.7
Richmond upon Thames LB	56	19.6
Sutton LB	119	33.3
Waltham Forest LB	206	55.0
Bracknell Forest UA	44	17.9
Brighton and Hove UA	149	36.5
Isle of Wight UA	75	30.4
Medway Towns UA	227	43.0
Milton Keynes UA	177	40.2
Portsmouth UA	159	50.0
Reading UA	107	43.8
Slough UA	78	35.1
Southampton UA	188	49.2
West Berkshire UA	77	21.3
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	32	11.4
Wokingham UA	51	16.9
Buckinghamshire County	234	24.2
East Sussex County	332	35.1
Hampshire County	687	28.9
Kent County	968	34.7
Oxfordshire	302	26.0
Surrey	427	20.7
West Sussex	412	29.1
Bath and North East Somerset UA	71	22.7
Bournemouth UA	105	40.4
Bristol UA	310	50.6
North Somerset UA	123	34.8
Plymouth UA	194	44.3
Poole UA	93	36.2
South Gloucestershire UA	130	27.4
Swindon UA	126	36.3
Torbay UA	131	55.3
Cornwall UA and the Isles of Scilly	292	30.5
Devon County	396	29.7
Dorset County	220	28.1
Gloucestershire	289	25.6
Somerset	314	30.0
Wiltshire UA	283	29.7

CABINET OFFICE

Big Lottery Fund: Public Appointments

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what remuneration the Chair of the Big Lottery Fund is receiving; how many days a week he works for the Fund; for how long he has been appointed; and whether he has been given ministerial guidance on the performance of his duties. [85907]

Mr Hurd: The Big Lottery Fund UK Board chair is remunerated £21,600 per annum, with a time commitment of six days per month. The appointment is for a term of four years which commenced on the 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2015. The chair has been given ministerial guidance on the performance of his duties.

Charity Commission: Public Appointments

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he proposes to start recruitment for the next Chair of the Charity Commission; what recruitment process will be followed; and if he will make a statement. [85906]

Mr Hurd: The current Chair of the Charity Commission's term of office is due to end in July 2012. The recruitment of a successor will begin in the new year. As a public appointment, the recruitment process will be conducted in line with the requirements of the Commissioner Public Appointments.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85632]

Mr Maude: Details of the Cabinet Office's internal audit work and that of the Civil Service Commission, its sponsored executive non-departmental body, are contained in their respective Statements of Internal Control. The statements are included in their annual reports and accounts 2010-11. These publications are available in the House of Commons Library and on the following websites:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/resource-accounts-2010-11.pdf

http://civilservicecommission.independent.gov.uk/downloads/annual-report/cs-annual-report10-11.pdf

Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for his Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for his Department in 2011-12. [73192]

Mr Maude: The estimated cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement is as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	0.8
2009-10	0.7
2010-11	0.4
2011-12	0.4

Consultants are only engaged to provide specialist commercial advice on particular projects where this is not available in-house, and may also be used in the procurement process itself where suitable expertise is not available in-house. The use of these consultants, regardless of value, is subject to a strict set of approval procedures, and prior approval must be sought in all cases. The work involved in researching the finance systems to identify this expenditure in past years, and in consulting all business units to analyse and forecast expenditure for 2011-12 would incur disproportionate costs.

The total cost of consultancy is published in the Cabinet Office Annual Reports and Accounts, available in the House of Commons Library and on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-office-annual-reports-and-accounts

The amounts are as follows:

			£000
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Administration	8,732	19,467	7,025
Programme	10,584	8,036	2,107
Total	19,316	27,503	9,132

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Byrne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham in the latest financial year for which figures are available. [85450]

Mr Maude: The information is not held in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [83007]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office uses a number of channels and suppliers to publish leaflets, posters and reports such as the Central Office of Information (COI), The Stationery Office (TSO)—for the production and publication of Command and House papers—and existing internal resources such as our in-house reprographics team.

Cabinet Office only keeps records centrally of leaflets, posters and reports that incur external costs. Information on these are detailed as follows:

Information provided by COI:

The Cabinet Office published seven reports through COI between May 2010 and the end of March 2011 at a total cost of £90,695. (i) Each report was published under Crown Copyright, (ii) no design costs were incurred.

No leaflets or posters were published by COI during this period.

Information provided by TSO:

The Cabinet Office published one report through TSO between May 2010 and the end of March 2011 at a total cost of £640. This does not include reports published in the name of the Deputy Prime Minister detailed in his PQ answered on 30 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 1000W.

No leaflets or posters were published by TSO during this period.

Unemployment: Households

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of households in each parliamentary constituency have *(a)* any adult and *(b)* all adults who have never worked. [86350]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of households in each parliamentary constituency has a) any adult and b) all adults who have never worked [86350].

The table shows estimates for part a) and relate to the period January-December 2010. The estimates are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and are not seasonally adjusted. An asterisk indicates that sample sizes are too small to provide reliable estimates for a particular parliamentary constituency. The table will be placed in the Library of the House.

For part b) it is not possible to provide reliable estimates for parliamentary constituencies because the sample sizes are not sufficiently large enough.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results.

Government Procurement

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will estimate the number of government contracts which have not been awarded to UK companies due to EU procurement rules in each of the last five years. [86036]

Mr Maude: UK Government contracts are awarded on the basis of value for money. Statistics from the European Commission indicate that 97% of UK Government contracts are awarded to UK-based firms.

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 333-4W, on immigrants: EU nationals, what the original countries of birth were of those EU nationals who have entered the UK in each of the last five years. [86327]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, pursuant to the Answer of 22 November 2011, Official Report, columns 333-4W, on immigrants: EU nationals, if he will provide a breakdown of what the original countries of birth were of those EU nationals who have entered the UK in each of the last five years (86327).

The Office for National Statistics produces estimates of long-term international migration, primarily based on the International Passenger Survey (IPS). The IPS is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics.

The answer of 22 November 2011 provided long-term immigration estimates of all EU citizens who were not born in the EU for each of the last five years. It is not possible to provide a reliable breakdown of what the individual countries of birth were of EU nationals coming to the UK for each of the last five years, due to the large standard errors associated with the estimates. A migration estimate with a standard error percentage of more than 25 per cent is not considered to be reliable.

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 333-4W, on immigrants: EU nationals, how many EU nationals whose original country of origin is outside the EU have settled in the UK in each of the last five years. [86328]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, pursuant to the Answer of 22 November 2011, Official Report, columns 333-4W, on immigrants: EU nationals, how many EU nationals whose country of origin is outside the EU have settled in the UK in each of the last five years (86328).

The Office for National Statistics produces estimates of long-term international migration, primarily based on the International Passenger Survey (IPS). The IPS is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics. The latest figures available are for 2010 and these are shown in the following table. These latest estimates were published on 24 November 2011.

Long-term immigration to the UK of people who are EU citizens but whose country of last residence is not an EU state

	Estimate	*SE%*
2005	9,000	25
2006	7,000	29
2007	11,000	33
2008	9,000	23
2009	10,000	32
2010	7,000	21

Note:
SE% = Standard error percentage
Source:
International Passenger Survey (IPS), ONS

Standard error percentages (SE%) indicate the robustness of each estimate. A migration figure with a standard error percentage greater than 25% is not considered to be reliable for practical purposes.

Population: Babies

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the number of children in each constituent part of the UK who are aged under one. [86364]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for an estimate of the number of children in each constituent part of the UK who are aged under one year old (86364).

Table 1 shows the number of children aged under one year old in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland for mid-2010. This is the latest year for which population estimates are available.

Table 1: Estimated resident population aged under one year old, mid-2010

Country	*Thousand*
United Kingdom	795.2
England	675.4
Wales	35.2
Scotland	59.4
Northern Ireland	25.2

Sources:
Office for National Statistics.
National Records for Scotland.
Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency.

Public Sector: Mutual Societies

Richard Graham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment his Department has made of the performance of the mutuals pathfinders; and if he will make a statement. [85462]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has recently reviewed the progress of the Mutual Pathfinders, and has released a "Mutual Pathfinder Progress Report", which is available at the following link:

http://mutuals.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/documents/mutual-pathfinder-progress-report

Public Sector: Pay

Bill Esterson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the real level of pay for staff working in the public sector in *(a)* Sefton and *(b)* the UK in each of the next five years. [86057]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the real level of pay for staff working in the public sector in (a) Sefton and (b) the UK in each of the next five years. (86057)

ONS does not make estimates of earnings levels for future periods, so no estimates have been made of real levels of pay for staff working in the public sector in Sefton and the UK in each of the next five years.

Public Sector: Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to ensure that non-unionised public sector workers are represented in pension negotiations. [85676]

Mr Maude: The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the right hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), and I have been jointly leading discussions with a TUC delegation, as representatives of public sector workers, since February 2011. Formal consultations, as the usual method for non-union members to comment on Government proposals, have already taken place on proposed increases to employee contributions from April 2012 in the civil service, teachers and NHS pension schemes. There were 13,834 responses from individuals.

Steria

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many contracts his Department has awarded to Steria since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each contract. [85480]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has not awarded any contracts to Steria since May 2010.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department has taken to ensure that young people in the North East have access to National Citizen Service programmes. [85565]

Mr Hurd: We are committed to ensuring that as many young people as possible have access to National Citizen Service regardless of background or location. When commissioning providers for 2011 and 2012, we therefore worked to ensure a good geographical spread of National Citizen Service pilots across England. In 2011, Catch 22, Princes Trust, Safe in Tees Valley and v/Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust all offered places on National Citizen Service pilots to young people in the north east. In 2012, there will be a number of opportunities for 16-year-olds in the north east to take part in a National Citizen Service pilot. The organisations providing these places are Academy of Youth, Catch 22, Future Foundations, Safe in Tees Valley and v/Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust who are now actively recruiting in the area.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Aviation: Treaties

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 149W, on aviation: treaties, what recent progress has been made on the ratification of the Cape Town convention. [85585]

Mr Prisk: Since my answer of 17 May, the Department's officials have continued to work closely with industry representatives to discuss the benefits of UK ratification and this has resulted in additional evidence being submitted. Officials are now considering all the evidence that has been provided to the Department. A Government Response to the Call for Evidence will be published in the new year.

Business

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of mentors available to support small businesses in *(a)* Sefton and *(b)* nationally. [86349]

Mr Prisk: There are 70 mentoring organisations now accessible via:

www.mentorsme.co.uk

and through them 11,000 mentors. This initiative is led by business, not by Government, and the British Bankers Association (BBA) is co-ordinating and sponsoring the work. The website does not contain data on mentors at regional or constituency level but the search facility on the website allows visitors to easily find a mentoring organisation in their locality.

Our aim is to develop a network of over 40,000 business mentors and the BBA is currently screening applications from other mentoring organisations who wish to be listed on the portal.

The banks themselves are also contributing practical mentoring support alongside the other contributing organisations: the banks have made a commitment to have 1,000 bank mentors trained and deployed in not-for-profit mentoring organisations by the end of June 2012.

Additionally, new grant funding of £1.2 million was announced by BIS on 16 November to recruit and train 10,000 volunteer business mentors from the small business community via the Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (SFEDI). This is on top of funding of £700,000 for 5,000 mentors announced by the Secretary of State for the Home Department as part of the package of support for female entrepreneurs on 4 November.

SFEDI (the sector skills body for enterprise) is working with a range of trade associations and business representative bodies who will be recruiting from among local business communities and the volunteer business mentors will be accessible through

www.mentorsme.co.uk

Business: Entry Clearances

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 459-60W, on business: entry clearances, if he will place in the Library the representations he has received on forward planning and Tier 2 visas. [82533]

Mr Prisk: I will place representations the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the Minister for Trade and Investment have received on forward planning and Tier 2 visas in the Libraries of the House. The company names will be redacted to protect commercial confidentiality.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications from employees to run services for which his Department is directly responsible he has received since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [77614]

Mr Davey: There have been no applications, to our knowledge, that have progressed through to procurement.

Export Credits Guarantees: Egypt

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any of the debt owed by Egypt to the Export Credits Guarantee Department comes from sales of military equipment. [84122]

Mr Davey: The debt owed to the Export Credits Guarantees Department does not include military hardware i.e. aircraft, helicopters, tanks or missiles. It includes export contracts relating to the supply of communications equipment e.g. telephone and radio sets, to the Egyptian Government for use by the armed forces.

Financial Services: Older People

Rory Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to promote financial inclusion for older people living in rural areas who do not have access to the internet. [75040]

Mr Prisk: Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK)—a team within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport—delivers the Government's broadband strategy, bringing superfast broadband to all parts of the UK. BDUK's main role is to allocate and distribute £530 million of funding to bring superfast broadband to the third of UK homes and businesses which will not be provided for by the broadband market. There are currently nine procurement programmes operating in Cumbria, the Highlands and Islands, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, North Yorkshire, Lancashire, Rutland, Surrey and Wales.

The Government have allocated £17.13 million to help stimulate broadband private investment in Cumbria and the Cumbria county council is in procurement procedures to select a supplier, or suppliers, to upgrade infrastructure to support improved broadband services.

Race Online 2012 is the Government-supported organisation led by Martha Lane Fox working to encourage everybody in the UK, including older people living in rural areas, to access the internet. Latest figures from the Office for National Statistics estimate that the number of adults in the UK who had never been online fell by 300,000 to 8.43 million in the third quarter of 2011. Race Online 2012 has issued a report "Getting on—a Manifesto for Older People in a Network Nation". A copy is attached and can be accessed at:

http://raceonline2012.org/sites/default/files/resources/getting_on_august_2011.pdf

Further Education: English Language

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions Ministers in his Department have had with the Association of Colleges on fee remission for English for speakers of other languages courses; and if he will make a statement. [85493]

Mr Hayes: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and I meet regularly with representatives from the further education sector to discuss a wide range of issues.

Learners in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or employment support allowance (in the work-related activity group) are eligible for full fee remission where English language skills have been identified as a barrier to entering employment. Further education colleges and training organisations also have local discretion to provide fully subsidised courses for people on a wider range of benefits where the training is to help them enter employment. The Government continue to contribute 50% towards English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) course fees for people who are settled here and not eligible for full Government funding. We will no longer fund ESOL courses delivered in the workplace.

Further education (FE) colleges and training providers are responsible for meeting the needs of their local community, and increased freedoms and flexibilities that we have introduced will help them respond and determine within their funding where this is prioritised.

Higher Education

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has plans for further changes to higher education policy in 2013-14. [85583]

Mr Willetts: We set out our plans for higher education in the White Paper "Students at the Heart of the System" Cm 8122. We have consulted on the White Paper proposals. We have also asked the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to consult on future funding arrangements, including liberalising student number controls, in its forthcoming consultation on teaching funding for 2013/14 and beyond. We will respond to the White Paper consultation in the new year and a Higher Education Bill will be introduced in 2012, parliamentary time permitting.

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average cost was of providing a level 3 or higher qualification for adults aged 24 years old and over in the latest period for which figures are available. [86220]

Mr Hayes: Based on information provided by the Skills Funding Agency, the average in year unit cost for level 3 and higher qualifications for adults aged 25 and over for the 2009/10 academic year is estimated as £1,350 for apprenticeship provision and £2,100 for classroom based provision.

The total public funding for individual qualifications will depend on the length of the course, the subject area and whether the individual qualifies for full fee remission or the costs are shared between Government, the individual or the employer.

From the 2013/14 academic year we are introducing a new system of further education (FE) loans, which shifts more of the responsibility for investing in learning to individuals, and maintains support for adults to learn at advanced and higher levels. Sharing the same progressive features as higher education (HE) student finance—no upfront cost to the learner, no repayments until earnings reach £21,000, and outstanding amounts written off after 30 years—FE loans will use much of the delivery infrastructure for HE student loans, creating a more coherent offer to learners. The introduction of loans is an important step, and we will be working closely with colleges, training providers and stakeholders as we implement them for the 2013/14 academic year.

Higher Education: Fees and Charges

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many institutions have set tuition fees below £9,000. [85582]

Mr Willetts: Of the 149 institutions that have submitted access agreements to the Office for Fair Access (OFFA), there are 143 with estimated average tuition fees less than £9,000 (96%) after fee waivers.

Manufacturing Industries: Training

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has provided to colleges and training providers to train people for jobs in the manufacturing industry in 2011-12. [84825]

Mr Hayes: This Government recognise the importance of manufacturing and its key role in rebalancing the economy. Working with industry, this Government are taking action aimed at increasing growth in manufacturing output in the UK by encouraging higher levels of innovation, exports, business investment and technical skills, as well as cutting excessive red tape.

As set out in this Department's Skills Investment Statement 2011 to 2014 (1 December 2011), overall investment in adult further education (FE) and skills will be £3.8 billion in the 2012-13 financial year.

The Skills Funding Agency has responsibility for the funding of post-19 FE and skills training and allocates budgets to individual FE colleges and training organisations. It does not allocate funding at the qualification level. From the 2011/12 academic year we introduced a single adult skills budget. This will provide FE colleges and training organisations with the flexibility to offer the range and balance of programmes, from basic skills to higher-level skills, in the mode of delivery that will best meet the needs of learners, employers and communities in line with demand.

Post Offices: Pilot Schemes

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 736W, on post offices, what recent discussions he has had with Consumer Focus on the volume of customer transactions in Post Office Local pilots. [86355]

Mr Davey: Departmental officials and I have regular discussions with Consumer Focus on a range of topics, including matters relating to the post office network. As I explained in my previous answer, the Post Office Local model and the range of services available is currently being piloted across the UK. In May 2011, Consumer Focus published a detailed report, based on independent research, about the Post Office Local model which showed that the model offers over 85% of the range of post office services and that these services account for 97% of total customer transaction volumes across the network.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham in the latest financial year for which figures are available. [85444]

Mr Davey: The Department does not maintain records of spend in individual towns and cities and the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For information, the Department is committed to transparency and publishes details of monthly expenditure on our website at:

www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/financial

and from August 2011 onwards, this information contained the postcode of the supplier.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department has allocated to Birmingham in *(a)* ring-fenced and *(b)* non ring-fenced funding grants for each of the next three years. [85445]

Mr Prisk: The Birmingham region, through the local enterprise partnership, can access a variety of funding streams from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills as set out in my response to the right hon. Member on 23 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 452W.

To date the only funding this Department has allocated to the partnership is through the Capacity and Start up which is ring-fenced.

Scholarships

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support young people leaving kinship care to access the National Scholarship scheme; and if he will make a statement. [85494]

Mr Willetts: The National Scholarship Programme is designed for students whose family income is no greater than £25,000. Participating universities and colleges establish their own eligibility criteria to determine whom to help from among this broad group of people. In most cases, young people leaving kinship care will be deemed independent and only the student's own income, if any, will be taken into account.

Guidance to institutions about the programme published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) suggested to institutions that they may wish to consider if there are particular groups of students they would especially wish to support and encourage. The guidance listed students who were looked after children or care leavers (which includes those leaving kinship care) as one example of such a group.

Institutions charging above £6,000 must agree Access Agreements with the Director of Fair Access setting out the support they will provide to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, information about their outreach and retention activities, and the benchmarks or targets that they will set themselves. 32 institutions included milestones for care leavers in their Access Agreements approved by the Office for Fair Access in July 2011.

Tourism: Regional Development Agencies

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much each regional development agency spent on promoting tourism in its respective region in each of the last five financial years. [84833]

Mr Prisk: The following figures refer to spending by regional development agencies (RDAs) on core tourism and leisure objectives. RDAs have also spent money on activities related to tourism initiatives such as specific regeneration projects. The cost of these related activities are not included in the table.

£ million

	Expenditure on tourism				
RDA	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*	*2010/11*
AWM	3.8	4.9	8.5	6.1	3.3
EEDA	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.1	1.1
EMDA	5.3	4.7	3.3	3.3	2.5
LDA	23.9	29.4	18.7	20.1	14.1
NWDA	6.1	8.9	4.5	4.7	2.5
ONE	10.8	10.6	11.3	7.2	4.7
SEEDA	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.5	1.6
SWRDA	3.2	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.3
YF	3.9	6	3.1	6.2	6.3

Veterinary Services: Fees and Charges

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will ask the Competition Commission to investigate the pricing structures of the veterinary profession. [85466]

Mr Davey: Where there are concerns relating to pricing structures in a market, responsibility for investigating and referring them to the Competition Commission primarily rests with the Office of Fair Trading as the responsible competition authority.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of the consultation on the reform of air passenger duty; and if he will estimate the number of hours officials in his Department have been engaged in the consultation. [85890]

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer *(a)* how much funding from the public purse and *(b)* how many official working hours was spent on the consultation on the reform of air passenger duty. [85979]

Paul Maynard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* the cost to the public purse and *(b)* the number of working hours spent by his officials on the consultation on the reform of air passenger duty. [86184]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government regularly consult on a wide range of issues. The cost of public consultation is accounted for within annual departmental budgets, which are published and available online. No separate estimates are available for the cost of the air passenger duty consultation.

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely amount of air passenger duty paid per passenger journey to *(a)* the Caribbean and *(b)* Hawaii following implementation of his planned reforms to air passenger duty. [85891]

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether passengers from UK airports flying to the Caribbean or Hawaii will pay more air passenger duty following his reforms to the duty. [85978]

Paul Maynard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he proposes that passengers from UK airports flying to the Caribbean will pay more air passenger duty (APD) than passengers flying to Hawaii following his planned reform of APD. [86336]

Miss Chloe Smith: Air passenger duty (APD) rates for 2012-13, which take effect from 1 April 2012, were published at the Autumn Statement. The rates are set out in Table 1 of the document entitled 'Tables Confirming Tax and Tax Credit Rates and Thresholds for 2012-13', which is available on the HM Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/as2011_documents.htm

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when airlines were informed of the new air passenger duty rates applicable from 1 April 2012. [85904]

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when airlines were informed of the air passenger duty rates applicable from 1 April 2012. [85975]

Miss Chloe Smith: Budget 2011 announced that air passenger duty would be frozen for 2011-12 and the RPI increase assumed in the Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR) forecast would be implemented from 1 April 2012. The Autumn Statement of 29 November confirmed the rates for 2012-13. The published rates are available on the HM Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/as2011_documents.htm

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of the changes to air passenger duty announced in the Government response to the consultation on the reform of air passenger duty are intended to achieve greater simplification of the system. [85905]

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes to air passenger duty announced in the Government response to the consultation on the reform of air passenger duty are intended to achieve greater simplification of the system. [85977]

Paul Maynard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of whether his planned changes to air passenger duty (APD) will result in greater simplification of the APD system. [86335]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government consultation on Air Passenger Duty (APD) emphasised a number of objectives, including fairness and the need to maintain revenues from the aviation sector. It is right that the aviation sector makes a fair contribution to the public finances.

The Government considered changes to the APD banding structure, alongside the base case of no change. A revenue neutral change would have required those flying to band A and band B destinations (91% of passengers) to pay more. The Government therefore decided to retain the existing four APD distance bands.

Business: Loans

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether companies that develop and export low carbon technologies will be eligible to receive support through his proposed National Loan Guarantee Scheme. [85484]

Mr Hoban: All firms in the UK with annual turnover of up to £50 million will be eligible to apply for loans under the National Loan Guarantee Scheme.

Child Benefit: Wales

Jessica Morden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* families and *(b)* lone parents receive child benefit in Wales; and how many such lone parents are women. [85814]

Mr Gauke: The number of families receiving child benefit in Wales can be found in the HMRC statistical publication 'Child Benefit Statistics: Geographical Analysis', available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug10.pdf

As of August 2010, there were approximately 373,000 families in Wales receiving child benefit.

Information on the number of lone parents is not available. The child benefit administrative dataset does not contain any information on household composition of claimants.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85646]

Miss Chloe Smith: Internal audit plans for the Treasury and its executive agencies are drawn up annually and reviewed as required through the year. They are based on a review of management risk assessments, discussions with senior managers, previous internal audit work and planned changes and developments, and also linked with the organisations' objectives. The plans are established in consultation with, and subject to approval by, the Accounting Officers, boards and the Audit Committees as appropriate.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85665]

Miss Chloe Smith: UK public procurement policy is to award contracts on the basis of value for money, which means the optimum combination of cost and

quality over the lifetime of the project. Public sector procurers are required to assess value for money from the perspective of the contracting authority using criteria linked to the subject matter of the contract, including compliance with the published specification.

Wider socio-economic benefits that do not accrue to the contracting authority cannot be taken into account at tender evaluation stage if they do not relate to the subject matter of a contract from the point of view of the contracting authority.

Economic Growth

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the levels of economic growth in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other G7 countries over the last 12 months. [85580]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. Its "Economic and fiscal outlook" published 29 November 2011 state that

"World activity has slowed since our March forecast, especially in advanced economies. This reflects: the deepening of the euro area sovereign debt crisis and related weakness in the financial sector; the supply chain effects from the Japanese earthquake; sluggish performance in the US labour and housing markets; and higher oil prices, partly related to unrest in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region."

The UK cannot be immune from this series of shocks, which have weakened economic growth in the UK and other G7 countries over the last 12 months.

Economic Growth: North-west England

Bill Esterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his autumn statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 806, what plans he has for the development of the Atlantic Gateway. [85512]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 8 December 2011]:* Returning the UK economy to sustainable economic growth that is more balanced across the UK and sectors is a key priority.

The Government are taking forward an ambitious work programme with the eight core cities outside London to help them maximise their growth potential, including consideration of financial tools and support to drive forward key projects for the area.

We will be working closely with business, city leaders, chief executives and LEP chairs across the country to develop tailored deals to unlock growth, including how to realise the ambitions in the Atlantic Gateway.

Employment

Richard Graham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has made an estimate of the number of new jobs required to be created to maintain employment levels at a time of increasing population growth in the next 20 years. [85482]

Miss Chloe Smith: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith) on 7 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 365W.

Financial Services: Qualifications

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority as part of the retail distribution review on exempting financial advisers who have reached a certain age from professional requirements. [85435]

Mr Hoban: The Retail Distribution Review (RDR) is a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA), an independent body. The FSA has consulted extensively on the RDR since 2006 and, in accordance with the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, has published cost-benefit analyses of the proposals.

The FSA is required under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination in the exercise of its functions. This includes discrimination on the basis of age.

National Income

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of levels of domestic consumption on gross domestic product over the last 12 months. [85581]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published gross domestic product (GDP) by expenditure up to the third quarter of 2011. The level of household consumption is 1.4% lower than the same quarter last year and the level of Government consumption is 2.9% higher. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published its "Economic and fiscal outlook" on 29 November 2011, setting out its forecasts for 2011. GDP growth in 2011 is forecast to be 0.9% with household consumption forecast to fall by 1.1% in 2011, contributing -0.7 percentage points to growth in GDP overall. Government consumption is forecast to rise by 2.2% in 2011, contributing 0.3 percentage points to GDP growth.

Poverty: Rural Areas

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications of the findings of the Hills Report for his policy on rural poverty. [85965]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply.

Professor Hills published his Interim Report in October 2011, and he is due to present his final report to Government in early 2012. My officials and I will carry out an assessment of his recommendations and their implications at that time.

Public Expenditure: Northern Ireland

Mr Donaldson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether factors other than the application of the Barnett formula were used to determine the block grant to Northern Ireland announced in October 2010. [85894]

Danny Alexander: In addition to Barnett consequential, the Northern Ireland Executive received £25 million to set up an access fund to ensure a fair and just resolution of issues arising from the collapse of the Presbyterian

Mutual Society. They were also granted an additional £175 million of borrowing in order to create headroom within NIE's budget for a loan to the PMS administrator to facilitate an orderly disposal of assets.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 179-80W, on public sector: pensions, to which individual trades union leaders the Chief Secretary to the Treasury was referring in his BBC TV interview. [85380]

Danny Alexander: As I said during the interview of 6 November 2011 and in my answer to the same parliamentary question on 21 November 2011, most of the unions want to reach an agreement.

Discussions are ongoing and I am very keen that a deal is reached with the trades unions.

Bill Esterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the level of pensions of the uprating of public sector pensions for *(a)* current and *(b)* future pensioners. [85697]

Danny Alexander: Public service pensions in payment (or deferral) are uprated annually according to consumer prices index, through the statutory link to the indexation of the state second pension.

On 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 163-65, the Minister with responsibility for pensions my hon. Friend the Member for Thornbury and Yate (Steve Webb) confirmed in an oral statement to Parliament that the state second pension will be increased by 5.2% in April 2012. The level of public service pensions for current pensioners will therefore also increase by 5.2%.

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the total annual increase in public sector pension payment expenditure arising from the proposed *(a)* guarantee to protect full existing pension rights for those within 10 years of pension age and *(b)* change in the accrual rate for public sector schemes. [86237]

Danny Alexander: On 2 November 2011, I announced an enhanced offer on public service pensions. This included:

setting an objective that public service workers who, as of 1 April 2012, have 10 years or less to their pension age see no change in when they can retire, nor any decrease in the amount of pension they receive at their current normal pension age. Schemes have been asked to determine the fairest way of reaching this objective, while ensuring that costs to the taxpayer in each and every year do not exceed the Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts of public service pension costs; and

an increase in the accrual rate in the Government's preferred scheme design for public service pension reform, from 1/65ths to 1/60ths. This is an 8% cost increase.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to improve the performance of HM Revenue and Customs in dealing with post at the National Insurance Contributions and Employer Office within the target timescale of 80 per cent. being dealt with within 15 days. [85960]

Mr Gauke: HMRC National Insurance Contributions and Employer Office redeployed staff from other work to bring customer correspondence to under the 15 days target. Currently 88% of post is less than 15 days old.

Taxation: Energy

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposed removal of the levy exemption certificate on energy intensive industries which depend on combined heat and power plants. [85911]

Miss Chloe Smith: Budget 2011 announced that from 2013, the new relief from the carbon price floor for combined heat and power will be introduced and the existing relief from climate change levy provided through levy exemption certificates removed.

A Tax Impact and Information Note on the removal of the exemption was published on 6 December, alongside the draft legislation, and is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/tiin/tiin700.pdf

The Government are working with the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Association and its members in order to develop a simpler, direct and more cost effective means of support for combined heat and power stations.

The level of the relief from the carbon price floor for supplies of fossil fuels to good-quality CHP stations that are intended to be used to generate electricity, will be announced at Budget 2012.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposed carbon floor price on energy intensive industries which depend on combined heat and power plants. [85912]

Miss Chloe Smith: An assessment of the impacts of the carbon price floor is given in HMRC's Tax Information and Impact Note published alongside the Budget. This is available online at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2011/tiin6111.pdf

The Department for Energy and Climate Change has carried out an assessment of the impact of all Government policies on energy bills for energy-intensive industries, published on 23 November, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/aes/impacts/impacts.aspx

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced at the autumn statement on 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, a package of measures to reduce the transitional impacts of energy and climate change policies on the costs of electricity for the most energy-intensive industries. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will assess the impacts of the package as the details are developed.

Taxation: Pensions

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the potential revenue yield from setting the annual pension tax relief allowance at *(a)* £40,000 and *(b)* £80,000; and if he will make a statement. [85198]

Mr Gauke: HMRC estimate that setting the annual pension tax relief allowance at:

(a) £40,000 would yield around £600 million per year.

(b) £80,000 would cost around £1,200 million per year.

This is when compared to the current £50,000 annual allowance which was introduced for tax year 2011-12 onwards.

These estimates are on an accruals basis and exclude behavioural effects.

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the cost of restricting tax relief on pensions to 20 per cent. on incomes of over £100,000 per annum; and if he will make a statement. [85200]

Mr Gauke: HMRC estimate that the revenue yield from restricting tax relief on pensions to 20% on incomes over £100,000 per annum would be £3.6 billion in 2012-13, when compared to a position of full relief on contributions up to £50,000. This is on an accruals basis and excludes behavioural effects.

VAT: Electronic Publishing

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department plans to introduce a zero rate of value added tax on e-books. [85381]

Mr Gauke: Under EU law, VAT on electronic books must be charged at the standard rate. Existing agreements with our EU partners do not allow the UK or other member states to introduce a new zero-rate or extend an existing one to relieve e-books from VAT and they specifically exclude electronically supplied services, which includes e-books, from a reduced rate.

Working Tax Credit: Wales

Jessica Morden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female lone parents receive working tax credits in Wales. [86018]

Mr Gauke: The following table shows the number of male and female lone parents receiving working tax credit in Wales.

Number of in-work lone parents benefiting from working tax credit by gender of parent

	Thousand
Female	60.9
Male	4.0
Total	64.9

Written Questions: Government Responses

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer questions *(a)* 79735, *(b)* 79736, *(c)* 79737, *(d)* 79738 tabled by the hon. Member for Nottingham East on 7 November 2011 for answer on 10 November 2011. [86045]

Mr Gauke: I have replied to the hon. Member.

HEALTH

Contraceptives

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department plans to provide to local authorities on how to undertake a needs assessment of contraceptive services in their locality to ensure choice and open access to these services; and if he will make a statement; [86149]

(2) with reference to his Department's proposed reforms to the delivery of public health services, what support and guidance his Department provides to local authorities on commissioning comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services; and if he will make a statement; [86150]

(3) with reference to his Department's proposed reforms to the delivery of public health services, what sexual and reproductive health services local authorities will be required to commission to ensure choice and open access to such services; and if he will make a statement; [86151]

(4) whether his Department expects Public Health England to produce guidance for *(a)* clinical commissioning groups and *(b)* local authorities on the commissioning of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services; and if he will make a statement. [86152]

Anne Milton: It is the Government's intention that, subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, there should be a small number of activities that local authorities will be mandated to commission. These activities will include appropriate provision of confidential, open-access sexual health services. However, it is not the intention to be overly prescriptive regarding the detail of how these services should be commissioned, or to constrain local authorities' ability to design services which meet the needs of local people.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Health and Wellbeing Strategies prepared by each local area will help to inform the commissioning of sexual health services, including contraceptive services, from April 2013. Clinical and service standards developed by bodies such as the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, the Faculty for Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare and the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV are available to current service commissioners to help to inform commissioning decisions, and these standards will be available to future service commissioners as well.

The Department will also work with colleagues both in the national health service and in local authorities to determine their need for guidance on commissioning specific public health services such as sexual health services.

Abortion: Research

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the causes of multiple abortions among (i) under 16s and (ii) under 18s. [85502]

Anne Milton: The Department has not commissioned any research projects specifically on the causes of multiple abortions among young women aged under 16 and young women aged under 18. However, the Government Office for London, which has now been abolished, commissioned a research report published in January 2010, 'Young People in London: Abortion and Repeat Abortion'. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

Abortion: Young People

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many girls of school age who had abortions in the latest period for which figures are available have previously been on an at risk register. [85503]

Anne Milton: Data on the number of girls of school age having abortions that have previously been on the at risk register are not collected by the Department.

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people aged under 18 years who had abortions in the latest period for which figures are available are recorded as having had a previous abortion. [85504]

Anne Milton: The latest period for which data are available is 2010. Of the 16,460 legal abortions carried out on young women in England and Wales under the age of 18 years, 1,294 (7.9%) had undergone a previous abortion.

Antenatal Care: Wirral

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what improvements have been made in the antenatal care offered to families by antenatal contact at 28 to 36 weeks in the Wirral following his agreement on the early implementer site Piloting of Pathways. [86365]

Anne Milton: The Wirral is one of 26 early implementer sites announced in March 2011 to demonstrate improvement and success in delivery of the new Health Visiting Service Vision and Family Offer as detailed in the "Health Visiting Implementation Plan: A Call to Action 2011-2015". Pilot projects under way are looking at improving outcomes for children and families and ensuring greater awareness of and alignment of local early years services.

We are advised that in the Wirral, the results and lessons learned from the projects will be captured as case studies and shared within the region, as well as nationally to ensure the spread of key learning and improvement practice. This will be achieved through monthly knowledge sharing forums and specifically through an end of year event in March 2012.

Baby Care Units: Manpower

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of future staffing levels of neonatal units for premature and ill babies in NHS hospitals. [86510]

Anne Milton: Work force planning is a matter for local national health service organisations. They are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and will commission the required number of training places to develop the work force to meet those needs.

A safety and quality assurance process has been developed to ensure that any significant change proposed in the clinical work force has involved clinicians at all levels, maximising their engagement, leadership and sign off.

Baby Care Units: Nurses

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist nursing staff are employed to care for premature or ill babies in NHS hospitals in each year since 2006. [86511]

Anne Milton: It is for local national health service organisations to invest in training for specialist skills and to deploy specialist nurses in accordance with their local needs.

In December 2010, a new code for the capture of the number of nurses working in neonatal nursing, including special care baby units (SCBUs), was introduced to enable the separate identification of this key aspect of the NHS work force via the electronic staff record (ESR) system. Though the records for this new code are currently incomplete it will in time help to inform more targeted commissioning for the education and training of this specific staff group and therefore help to improve front line nursing for premature and sick babies.

As the code for nurses working in neonatal nursing (including SCBUs) was only implemented in ESR on 25 February 2011 even the most recent published data (August 2011) would contain very patchy coverage and therefore would not be suitable for answering this question. Those nurses working in maternity services and paediatric nursing would be involved in a wider range of work outside of the specific care of premature and sick babies (hence the inclusion of the new code) and therefore would not be suitable either.

Children's Centres: Departmental Co-ordination

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking jointly with the Department for Education to enable Sure Start children's centres to focus on families in greatest need. [86366]

Anne Milton: The Government want to retain a vibrant network of high-quality children's centres which are accessible to all families but focused on those in greatest need.

The Department of Health and the Department for Education published their joint vision for services from pregnancy through to age five in 'Families in the Foundation

Years' earlier this year. As part of this joint vision, the Government have also committed to doubling the number of places on the family nurse partnership (FNP) programme by 2015. This is a preventive programme for vulnerable young first time mothers and their babies. It offers intensive and structured home visiting, delivered by specially trained nurses, from early pregnancy until the child is two. FNP is either connected to or delivered from Sure Start children's centres in many areas and family nurses encourage clients to use children's centre services.

DFE is working with departmental colleagues on the Health Visiting community development training programme to look at sharing resources more widely and explore joint training opportunities for health visitors and children centre staff.

DFE, working closely with the Department, will set out ways in which children's centres should focus on families in greatest need in the Sure Start children's centres statutory guidance, which will be sent out for consultation in the new year. Local commissioners of health services, as well as local authorities and other partners, must have regard to the statutory guidance.

Payment by results approaches are also being developed to strengthen the focus on the core purpose of children's centres: to improve child development and school readiness (including health and well-being) amongst young children and to reduce inequalities. This includes identifying, reaching and supporting the most disadvantaged families to improve their parenting aspirations and skills and to promote health and well-being.

The NHS Operating Framework 2012-13 includes the requirement that strategic health authority and primary care trust clusters should work together to deliver the number of health visitors required as part of the Government commitment to increase the number by 4,200 by April 2015, as set out in the 'Health Visiting Implementation Plan 2011-15—A Call to Action' to deliver the Healthy Child Programme, provide greater support to families and develop local community capacity in support of children and families working closely with Sure Start children's centres and other local services.

Chronically Sick People

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in the *(a)* working and *(b)* total population suffering from (i) one long-term condition and (ii) two long-term conditions; and what he estimates the above numbers will be in (A) 10 years time and (B) 20 years time. [85757]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is shown in the following table.

		Number (million)
(a)	Number of people in work force with one or more long-term conditions	10.7
(b) (i)	Number of people with one long-term condition	10.4
(b) (ii)	Number of people with two or more long-term conditions	5.0
(i) (A)	Estimate over next 10 years for people with one or more long-term conditions	15.4
(i) (B)	Estimate over next 20 years for people with one or more long-term conditions	17.9

Departmental Assets

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assets his Department owns in Birmingham; and what the book value is of each such asset. [85442]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has no assets physically located in Birmingham.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85639]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's internal audit plan, developed in line with government internal audit standards, that outlines all proposed internal audit reviews is designed to align with departmental priorities and key risks. It is a 12-month plan which is revised and refreshed every quarter in line with Audit and Risk Committee meetings and updates to the Department's strategic risk register. This allows for the addition of new work to meet new priorities and emerging risks throughout the course of the year.

The proposed areas and broad timings for the reviews are discussed with the Permanent Secretary, presented to the senior executive team for their input and then subsequently to the Audit and Risk Committee (which then reports to the Department Board) for comment and agreement.

The Department's arm's length bodies maintain similar arrangements, in line with government internal audit standards, to develop a programme of internal audit intended to provide assurance to their board that adequate systems of internal control are in place and operating satisfactorily. Programmes of internal audit are authorised by their Audit and Risk Committee, or equivalent, and will consist of a range of reviews. Some audits will be routine work required to provide assurance to their external auditors, others will be based on risk assessments, typically involving the internal auditors, management and the Audit and Risk Committee, or designed to cover specific risks around fraud and corruption.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham in the latest financial year for which figures are available. [85440]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally. Such information as is available is shown in the following table.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) net operating costs, 2010-11

City	*Primary care trust*	*£000*
Birmingham	Birmingham East and North PCT	762,260
	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	589,000
	South Birmingham PCT	676,051
Newcastle	Newcastle PCT	527,308
Wakefield	Wakefield District PCT	651,925
Manchester	Manchester PCT	1,045,190
Leeds	Leeds PCT	1,303,910
Liverpool	Liverpool PCT	1,010,022
Coventry	Coventry Teaching PCT	585,246
Bristol	Bristol PCT	761,261
Sheffield	Sheffield PCT	988,515
Bradford	Bradford and Airedale PCT	914,092
Leicester	Leicester City PCT	548,802
Nottingham	Nottingham City PCT	554,422

Source:
Audited summarisation schedules, 2010-11.

This table shows the net operating costs of those PCTs which are geographically the most closely associated with the cities named in the question. These costs do not represent direct expenditure by the Department. PCT expenditure is funded from sums voted by Parliament to the Department. Once those funds are allocated, it is for PCTs to decide locally how the money should be used to address the health needs of their resident populations.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated to Birmingham in *(a)* ring-fenced and *(b)* non-ring fenced funding grants for each of the next three years. [85441]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows total revenue allocations made to primary care trusts (PCTs) in the Birmingham area for 2011-12.

PCT	*2011-12 total revenue allocations (£ million)*
Birmingham East and North	747.3
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	578.4
South Birmingham	650.2

PCT recurrent revenue allocations are not broken down by service or policy area. It is for PCTs to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities.

PCT allocations for 2012-13 will be announced shortly. This will be the last round of allocations made to PCTs, as, subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, from 2013-14 the NHS Commissioning Board would be responsible for the allocation of resources to clinical commissioning groups, while the Department would make grants to local authorities for their public health responsibilities.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85658]

Anne Milton: In line with United Kingdom public procurement policy, the Department and its arm's length bodies' procurement policy is to award contracts on the basis of value for money, which means the optimum combination of cost and quality over the lifetime of the project. Public sector procurers are required to assess value for money from the perspective of the contracting authority using criteria linked to the subject matter of the contract, including compliance with the published specification.

Wider socio-economic benefits that do not accrue to the contracting authority cannot be taken into account at tender evaluation stage if they do not relate to the subject matter of a contract from the point of view of the contracting authority.

Doctors: Foreign Nationals

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many non-UK doctors have been registered in *(a)* Suffolk Primary Care Trust and *(b)* England to provide out-of-hours care in each year since 2001; [85458]

(2) how many locum doctors have been registered in *(a)* Suffolk Primary Care Trust and *(b)* England to provide out-of-hours care in each year since 2001. [85459]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally.

Doctors are not required to register specifically to provide out-of-hours care. Every doctor providing national health service primary care services must be on a Performers List held by a primary care trust (PCT). In England a doctor can only be on one PCT list at any one time.

E. coli

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of E. coli 0157 infection were reported in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009, *(e)* 2010 and *(f)* 2011. [85948]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) carries out national microbiological and epidemiological surveillance of E. coli 0157. The HPA receives reports of laboratory human infections from microbiology laboratories throughout England and Wales and these data are collated and reported regularly in the HPA's Health Protection Report:

www.hpa.org.uk

The number of cases reported in England and Wales in the last five years are provided as annual and regional totals in Tables 1 and 2. Outbreak data are provided in Table 3. Data for 2011 will not be available until early 2012.

Table 1. E coli 0157 annual totals for England and Wales, 2006-10

	Number of E. coli 0157 cases
2006	1,001
2007	828
2008	950
2009	1,034
2010	793
Total	4,606

Table 1. E coli 0157 annual totals for England and Wales, 2006-10

Table 2: Regional totals of E. coli 0157 in England and Wales, by year for 2006-10

Region	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
East midlands	56	33	49	51	46
East of England	59	93	73	84	68
London	125	59	84	109	57
North-east	60	74	60	68	33
North-west	170	138	169	135	134
South-east	126	107	98	180	99
South-west	117	102	118	127	113
West midlands	50	45	104	78	82
Yorkshire and Humber	182	142	140	125	121
Wales	56	35	55	77	40
Total	1,001	828	950	1,034	793

Table 3: General outbreaks of infectious intestinal disease caused by E. coli 0157 in 2006-10

		People affected	
Mode of transmission	*Number of outbreaks*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Foodborne[1]	20	273	35.9
Recreational water	3	21	2.8
Animal contact	18	170	22.4
Person to person	21	289	38.0
Other/outdoor events	2	7	0.9
All outbreaks (total)	64	760	—

[1] Food is defined as provided in Regulation (EC) No 178/2002; i.e. a food is any substance or product, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed intended to be, or reasonably expected to be ingested by humans, including drinking water.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the Griffin report into the outbreak of E.coli 0157 at Godstone Farm, Surrey in 2009. [85955]

Anne Milton: Following publication in June 2010 of Professor George Griffin's report of the independent investigation into the outbreak of E. coli 0157 at Godstone Farm in 2009, the Godstone Multi Agency Implementation Committee (GMAIC) was established to agree and implement action in response to the recommendations made in the Griffin report.

GMAIC was a multi-agency cross-government group that included representatives from the open farms industry, public interest groups and the National Farmers Union and was chaired by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). GMAIC has completed its task, and a report of the actions it has taken against each of the 43 recommendations in the Griffin Report is published in full on the HPA's website:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1317131725640

Epilepsy: Health Services

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what variation there is in the funding of vagus nerve stimulation for refractory epilepsy by *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* specialised commissioning groups. [85379]

Paul Burstow: We have made no analysis of any variation in funding for vagus nerve stimulation for refractory epilepsy by primary care trusts and specialised commissioning groups.

Family Nurse Partnership Programme

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people worked in family nurse partnerships in each year since the inception of the family nurse partnership programme; [85811]

(2) how many families received assistance from family nurse partnerships in each year since the inception of the scheme. [86367]

Anne Milton: Since 2007, the approximate number of family nurses and family nurse partnership (FNP) supervisors working (full-time equivalents) in local FNP sites each year is 52 in 2007-08, 180 in 200-09, 270 in 2009-10, 295 in 2010-11. We expect there to be 430 by the end of 2011-12.

The total number of clients to have received assistance from the FNP programme to date (December 2011) is over 8,000. The approximate number of new families who have joined FNP each year from 2007 was 1,189 in 2007-08, 889 in 2008-09, 2,331 in 2009-10, 2,583 in 2010-11 and 1172 so far in 2011-12. Families receive assistance from FNP for up to two and a half years.

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of children with foetal alcohol spectrum disorders. [85486]

Anne Milton: The actual United Kingdom prevalence for either foetal alcohol syndrome or foetal alcohol spectrum disorder is unknown and there is no mechanism currently for national data collection.

Four Seasons Health Care

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with responsibility (1) with reference to comments made by the Minister for care services on Radio 4's "Today" Programme, 6 December 2011, on Southern Cross, what assurance process his Department has undertaken on the financial viability of Four Seasons Healthcare; and if he will publish the results of any such assurance process; [86176]

(2) what assurance his Department has received that Four Seasons Healthcare will seek to restructure its finances following its takeover of Southern Cross care homes; and when any such restructuring will be completed; [86177]

(3) how many times *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department have met senior management of Four Seasons Healthcare in the last 12 months. [86221]

Paul Burstow: The chairman and chief executive of Four Seasons Healthcare have met senior officials from the Department to explain the company's financial position twice in the last 12 months. We will continue to keep in close touch with the company. There have been no meetings between the company and Ministers to discuss this issue.

The company has explained its trading position and its plans to deal with its debt restructuring. It has stressed that its business model is very different from that of Southern Cross Healthcare. Unlike Southern Cross, it owns the majority of its homes. It also reports that it is operating profitably and is better able to cope with fluctuations in the market.

Four Seasons' historic debt matures in September 2012. The process to restructure the debt has begun and will be completed before the maturity date. The information provided by the company is commercially sensitive and it would not be appropriate to publish it.

At present, the Department does not have concerns about Four Seasons' financial position. However, we are keeping the situation under review.

It is for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to register providers of adult social care services, including care homes. The registration process for care providers with the CQC requires that they declare their organisation takes all reasonable steps to remain financially viable. Where the CQC has concerns regarding a declaration, it will ask further questions to determine whether the provider is compliant with Regulation 13 of the CQC (Registration) Regulations 2009, which requires providers to ensure the "financial viability" of their enterprise, before deciding whether to register them.

Health Services: Cardiovascular System

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NICE has any plans to publish a quality standard on the treatment of cardiovascular disease. [85556]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has already published quality standards on chronic heart failure and stroke, and is developing further quality standards on stable angina, acute coronary syndromes (including myocardial infarction), and thromboembolic diseases (including pulmonary embolism).

Further information on the quality standards NICE is developing can be found at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qualitystandards/qualitystandards.jsp

NICE, jointly with the National Quality Board, recently ran an engagement exercise on the development of a library of quality standard topics for the national health service. The list of proposed quality standard topics published as part of this exercise included the following cardiovascular topics:

acute heart failure;

atrial fibrillation;

hypertension;

secondary care management of malignant hypertension;

lipid modification;

secondary prevention of myocardial infarction and cardiac rehabilitation;

familial hypercholesterolemia;

risk assessment of modifiable cardiovascular risk factors;

peripheral vascular disease;

varicose veins; and

abdominal aortic aneurysm.

The engagement exercise closed on 14 October 2011.

Further information on the engagement exercise can be found at:

www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/currentniceconsultations/NQBEngagement.jsp

An announcement on next steps will be made once the responses have been analysed.

Health Services: Males

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans to include sexual history in the men's health check. [85553]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Health Check programme is a national public health programme for men and women in England aged 40-74. The purpose of the programme is to identify an individual's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes, and for that risk to be managed through appropriate follow up. There are no current plans to include sexual history as part of a check.

Health Visitors: Regulation

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to reform the regulation of the health visitor role undertaken by the Nursing and Midwifery Council. [85815]

Anne Milton: The review to reform the regulation of the health visiting profession is the responsibility of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

The NMC announced on 19 October 2011, that regulation of the health visitor role is to be positively reformed across the United Kingdom, as part of a programme of work emphasising the vital role of health visitors and other specialist community public health nurses. The NMC will build on much of the work that has been led by the four UK health departments, including the work of the Health Visitor Programme. The Department will contribute to the review. We are not aware of a date for which the review is scheduled for completion.

Health Visitors: Training

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitor training commissions there were in each strategic health authority in 2011-12. [85812]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the number of health visitor training commissions planned by each strategic health authority (SHA) for 2011-12.

Planned health visitor training commissions 2011-12 by SHA

	Number of commissions
North East	96
North West	111
Yorkshire and Humber	174
East Midlands	165
West Midlands	182
East of England	236
London	272
South East Coast	154
South Central	130
South West	210

Source:
Quarterly SHA Financial Management Returns

Health: Males

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of men that are likely to suffer from testosterone deficiency syndrome in 2020. [85554]

Anne Milton: Data on the number of men who suffer from testosterone deficiency syndrome are not currently held centrally and there are no plans at present to estimate the number of men that might suffer from the syndrome in 2020.

Hospitals

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department has visited since May 2010; and on what date each such visit took place. [85547]

Anne Milton: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

KPMG

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has paid *(a)* KPMG and *(b)* McKinsey since May 2010; and for what services. [85469]

Anne Milton: The following tables set out information from the Department's central procurement system about the purchase order (PO) value the Department (includes core Department of Health and Connecting for Health) has awarded and paid KPMG and McKinsey since April 2010 (figures can only be provided for the full financial year 2010-11).

KPMG LLP

Supplier name	*Type of services*	*2010-11 (£)*
KPMG LLP	Organisation and Change Management Consultancy	3,990,592
	Programme and Project Management Consultancy	608,131
	Secondment	21,731
Total	—	4,620,455

McKinsey and Co Inc UK

Supplier name	*Type of services*	*2010-11 (£)*
McKinsey and Co Inc UK	Organisation and Change Management Consultancy	139,000
Total		139,000

The following table sets out information from the Department's central procurement system about the PO value the Department (includes core Department of Health and Connecting for Health) has awarded to McKinsey since April 2011-12 (the current financial year, to date).

Supplier name	*Type of services*	*2011-12 (£)*
McKinsey and Co Inc UK	Organisation and Change Management Consultancy	200,300
Total		200,300

Malcolm Lader

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Professor Malcolm Lader holds any official appointment within his Department or any of its Executive agencies or non-departmental public bodies; and whether he has contributed to its policy review on addiction to medicines. [85384]

Anne Milton: Professor Malcolm Lader is one of the experts and stakeholders whose advice has been sought in the Department's work on addiction to medicines. Professor Malcolm Lader does not hold any official appointment within the Department, its executive agencies or non-departmental public bodies.

Medical Certificates

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects GP practices to have access to systems allowing them to issue electronic fit notes. [85759]

Mr Simon Burns: We expect over half of the general practitioner (GP) practices in England to have access to electronic fit notes using their GP systems during spring 2012 with others to follow as the practices' system suppliers develop their systems to incorporate this functionality.

Mental Health Services: Hospital Beds

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many acute mental health beds there are in each mental health trust in England; and how many such beds there are per 100,000 people. [85823]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect the total number of acute mental health beds in each mental health trust in England or the number of beds per 100,000 people.

However, the Department does collect data on the average daily number of mental health beds available in all trusts in England that are available overnight.

Figures for the latest quarter (July to September 2011) are in the following table. The table also shows population data for England, and the number of beds per 100,000 people for England. The population data cannot be broken down further.

Average daily number of available mental illness beds open overnight in Quarter 2 2011-12 for all trusts with mental illness beds in England

Organisation code	*Organisation name*	*Available mental illness beds (open overnight)*	*Mid-2011 population estimate (thousand)*	*Beds per 100,000 population*
	England	23,208	52,655	44.08
RR7	Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	44	—	—
RTF	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	75	—	—
RX3	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	764	—	—
RX4	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	871	—	—
RBS	Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust	7	—	—
RNN	Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	134	—	—
RT2	Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust	519	—	—
RTV	5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	304	—	—
RW3	Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	10	—	—
RW4	Mersey Care NHS Trust	408	—	—
RW5	Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust	629	—	—
RXA	Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	287	—	—
RXV	Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	605	—	—
TAE	Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust	248	—	—
5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	178	—	—
RCU	Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust	24	—	—
RGD	Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust	347	—	—

Average daily number of available mental illness beds open overnight in Quarter 2 2011-12 for all trusts with mental illness beds in England

Organisation code	*Organisation name*	*Available mental illness beds (open overnight)*	*Mid-2011 population estimate (thousand)*	*Beds per 100,000 population*
RV9	Humber NHS Foundation Trust	222	—	—
RXE	Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust	271	—	—
RXG	South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	469	—	—
RY6	Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust	8	—	—
TAD	Bradford District Care Trust	205	—	—
RHA	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	1,023	—	—
RP1	Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	238	—	—
RP7	Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	227	—	—
RT5	Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	432	—	—
RXM	Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	302	—	—
RY8	Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Trust	73	—	—
R1A	Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust	179	—	—
RLY	North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	211	—	—
RQ3	Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	44	—	—
RRE	South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	357	—	—
RXT	Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	691	—	—
RYG	Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust	288	—	—
RYK	Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	194	—	—
TAJ	Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	201	—	—
RMY	Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	394	—	—
RRD	North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	399	—	—
RT1	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust	326	—	—
RT6	Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	142	—	—
RWN	South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust	717	—	—
RWR	Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	508	—	—
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	1	—	—
RAT	North East London NHS Foundation Trust	313	—	—
RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	609	—	—
RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	8	—	—
RPG	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	448	—	—
RQY	South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust	529	—	—
RRP	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	600	—	—
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	12	—	—
RV3	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust	840	—	—
RV5	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	940	—	—
RWK	East London NHS Foundation Trust	698	—	—
TAF	Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust	189	—	—
RX2	Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	620	—	—
RXY	Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust	565	—	—
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	63	—	—
5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	64	—	—
R1C	Solent NHS Trust	140	—	—
RNU	Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust	439	—	—
RW1	Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust	637	—	—
RWX	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	235	—	—
5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	146	—	—
RDY	Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust	99	—	—
RH5	Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	168	—	—
RJ8	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	135	—	—
RTQ	2gether NHS Foundation Trust	226	—	—
RVJ	North Bristol NHS Trust	22	—	—
RVN	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	615	—	—

Average daily number of available mental illness beds open overnight in Quarter 2 2011-12 for all trusts with mental illness beds in England

Organisation code	Organisation name	Available mental illness beds (open overnight)	Mid-2011 population estimate (thousand)	Beds per 100,000 population
RWV	Devon Partnership NHS Trust	274	—	—

Notes:
1. Bed numbers were collected by consultant specialty and only include beds where the patient is under the care of a consultant and covered the following consultant specialties:
710 Adult Mental Illness
711 Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
712 Forensic Psychiatry
713 Psychotherapy
715 Old Age Psychiatry
2. ONS population estimates are not available for individual NHS organisations.
Sources:
1. Department of Health form, KH03
2. Office for National Statistics, 2010-based National Population Projections—Table A1-4
www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3a77-229866

Midwives: Manpower

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the additional midwives the Government undertook to provide are being provided at a local level in the NHS; how many such midwives have already been provided; and how many he plans to provide in each year to 2015. [85490]

Anne Milton: The number of qualified midwives has increased by 2.2% (450) since May 2010. However, it is the responsibility of local NHS organisations to plan and deliver a work force appropriate to the needs of their local population, based on clinical need and sound evidence.

The Department has asked the Centre for Workforce Intelligence to undertake an in-depth study of the nursing and maternity work force starting 2011-12 in order to inform the future commissioning of training places. This study will help inform our plans for the future.

Neurology: Surgery

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of interim funding decisions for neurosurgery made by specialised commissioning groups on *(a)* patients with rare clinical need and *(b)* their carers and families. [85378]

Anne Milton: During 2012-13, all money and accountability for the decision making processes for access to specialised services will still be under the control of primary care trusts (PCTs).

Commitments have been given to PCTs that no policy convergence will take place in 2012-13 without their knowledge and explicit support. In the case of access to neurosurgery, this will still be governed by local policy although work is being undertaken to identify differences in access to services.

A clinical, financial and public patient experience and engagement process is being developed to support policy convergence for 2013-14 onwards.

NHS: Negligence

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the NHS Litigation Authority is operating a moratorium on settling large claims; and if he will make a statement; [85881]

(2) in how many cases the NHS Litigation Authority has admitted liability but voluntary interim payments have not been paid; and if he will make a statement; [85882]

(3) how many cases received by the NHS Litigation Authority have been resolved in terms of *(a)* liability and *(b)* damages and fees in each month since May 2010. [85883]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) does not have a moratorium on settling large claims. The NHSLA is committed to appropriately resolving all claims as speedily as possible.

The NHSLA does not have data on the number of cases where it admitted liability but voluntary interim payments have not been paid, because the NHSLA does not have a record of all instances where voluntary interim payments were requested.

The number of clinical negligence claims settled by the NHSLA by month since May 2010 is shown in the following table. The table shows separately the number of settlements with no damages or costs and the number of settlements with damages and/or costs.

Month of settlement	Number of claims settled: Nil damages and costs	With damages and/or costs	Total
May 2010	119	414	533
June 2010	102	477	579
July 2010	99	515	614
August 2010	99	373	472
September 2010	81	510	591
October 2010	176	663	839
November 2010	182	640	822
December 2010	113	470	583

Month of settlement	Number of claims settled: Nil damages and costs	With damages and/or costs	Total
January 2011	117	520	637
February 2011	128	549	677
March 2011	176	628	804
April 2011	73	437	510
May 2011	107	609	716
June 2011	121	575	696
July 2011	122	604	726
August 2011	146	722	868
September 2011	149	599	748
October 2011	269	589	858
November 2011	143	546	689

Note:
The data cover the period up to 30 November 2011.
Source:
NHS Litigation Authority, 2011

Palliative Care

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to draw to the attention of *(a)* GPs and *(b)* hospital trusts the recent advice of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the use of painkillers in palliative care. [85990]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently developing a clinical guideline on the safe and effective use of opioids in palliative care and has not yet issued final guidance to the national health service.

NICE has published draft guidance for consultation and stakeholders have until 6 January to comment on NICE'S provisional recommendations. The Institute currently expects to publish its final guidance in May 2012.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that patients and their relatives are informed by clinicians when hospital trusts are placed on the Liverpool care pathway. [85991]

Paul Burstow: The Liverpool care pathway (LCP) was developed by the Marie Curie Palliative Care Institute in Liverpool as an approach to support the delivery of good care in the last days of life. The Department of Health is not responsible for the LCP, but recommends it as good practice.

Before putting someone on the LCP, senior doctors and nurses involved in the patient's care should agree that death is very likely to be imminent and that being placed on the pathway will be beneficial to the patient. The LCP documentation is clear that a decision to use the pathway should always involve the patient and/or family members.

The National Care of the Dying Audit—Hospitals, based on the standards of care within the LCP and run by the Marie Curie Palliative Care Institute in collaboration with the Royal College of Physicians, assesses the use of the LCP and the quality of care provision. This audit is one of those that must be reported in providers' Quality Accounts.

The report of the third round of the audit notes that in 94% of documented cases discussions explaining the use of the LCP were held with relatives or carers. However, as part of the report's recommendations, it stresses that the decision that a patient is dying and in the last hours or days of life should be discussed with patients, where appropriate, and always with relatives or carers.

Palliative Care: Community Hospitals

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made any assessment of the relative importance of palliative care, rehabilitation and post-operative and respite care being delivered in local community hospitals. [85376]

Paul Burstow: The Government are committed to increasing care and access to treatment in the community. Local community hospitals provide a vital community resource to support patients in need of rehabilitation, recuperation and respite care—preventing unnecessary admissions to hospitals and supporting a rapid return to independence and good health.

Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament, power and responsibility for commissioning services will be devolved to more local clinical commissioning groups, which will mean that the design of patient pathways and local services is always clinically-led and based on more effective dialogue and partnership with hospital specialists.

Prescriptions

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were issued by *(a)* nurse independent prescribers, *(b)* community practitioner nurse prescribers and *(c)* doctors in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [85491]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected centrally on the number of prescriptions issued. Information is available for the number of items prescribed and subsequently dispensed in primary care. The following table provides information, by category of prescriber, for the latest 12-month period.

Prescription-items issued by category of prescriber in England, and dispensed, in the community, in the United Kingdom, from October 2010 until September 2011

Thousand

	Community practitioner nurse prescriber	*Nurse independent prescriber*	*Doctors*	*Other prescribers*	*Total*[1]
2010					
October	161	1,011	78,156	33	79,361
November	166	1,058	78,128	37	79,388
December	157	1,102	81,552	33	82,845
2011					
January	164	1,088	74,007	32	75,290
February	155	1,037	70,413	34	71,638
March	176	1,196	80,982	40	82,394
April	153	1,043	72,322	34	73,552
May	177	1,111	77,228	35	78,551
June	184	1,159	79,251	37	80,631
July	178	1,107	76,556	40	77,881
August	175	1,109	77,624	43	78,951
September	177	1,110	80,601	38	81,926

[1] Figures may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (PACT) system.

Radiation Exposure

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what costs have been incurred by the Health Protection Agency following the incident at the Fukushima nuclear plant in respect of collaboration with *(a)* organisations involved with civil contingencies, *(b)* the World Health Organisation, *(c)* the International Atomic Energy Agency and *(d)* the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation; and from what budget any such costs have been paid. [85789]

Anne Milton: The total costs of staff time incurred by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) in connection with the accident at the Fukushima nuclear plant up until 8 December 2011 were £313,675 of which £2,459 were in support of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), and £50,843 were in support of the World Health Organization (WHO) including travel costs to Geneva.

The remaining costs were incurred supporting the United Kingdom national response. No direct costs were incurred supporting the International Atomic Energy Agency. Ongoing support is currently provided to UNSCEAR and WHO. All of these costs were paid from the HPA Grant in Aid as part of the HPA's UK health protection responsibilities.

Steria

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts his Department has awarded to Steria since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each contract. [85476]

Anne Milton: The Department's central procurement system holds information on the following purchase orders (POs) relating to contracts awarded between May 2010 and November 2011. The following table sets out the date the PO was awarded, the service description for each transaction and the total value of the PO when awarded.

Date purchase order awarded	*Description of services*	*Monetary value (£)*	*Net worth (£)*
15 June 2010	Implementation Management for the e-Learning for Health Programme	33,120.00	33,120.00
17 November 2010	Commercial Management for the Strategic Commissioning Development Unit	48,730.00	48,730.00

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Research Unit

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Climate Research Unit. [86249]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has not had any discussions with representatives of the Climatic Research Unit at the university of East Anglia.

All DECC ministerial meetings are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/registers.aspx

Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value was of the *(a)* Carbon Emission Reduction Target and *(b)* Community Energy Saving Programme in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) 2011; and what the

monetary value of such schemes will be in (A) 2012 and (B) 2013. [85910]

Gregory Barker: These obligations are set in carbon saving terms and my Department does not require or collect data on actual expenditure. We do however make estimates of costs in the Impact Assessments published when the obligations are put in place or varied. We have estimated that obligated parties would need to invest around £5,000 million to meet their CERT targets (over the period April 2008 to December 2012) and around £350 million to meet CESP (October 2009 to December 2012).

CERT and CESP will be replaced by the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) in late 2012. As part of the recent Green Deal consultation we have proposed targets for ECO which we estimate would cost around £1,300 million per year.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress he has made on his inquiry into the outcome of the European Parliament vote of 5 July 2011 on carbon emissions targets; and when he plans to publish the outcome of the inquiry. [86520]

Gregory Barker: There has been no inquiry by my officials into the European Parliament's vote on EU greenhouse gas emission reductions, which took place on 5 July 2011.

Carbon Sequestration

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the expected timetable is for the development of carbon capture and storage projects; and if he will make a statement. [85898]

Charles Hendry: We will be launching an accelerated process for the selection of CCS projects as soon as possible. The Department is holding an Industry Day on 16 December to provide further information on the CCS programme. Sponsors and developers of proposed CCS projects, power generators, CO_2 transport infrastructure providers, oil and gas field operators and independent operators, and CO_2 capture technology providers are invited to contact the Office of Carbon Capture and Storage if they wish to attend.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with Scottish and Southern Energy on the timetable for the development of carbon capture and storage at Peterhead. [85899]

Charles Hendry: Ministers hold regular meetings with industry to discuss a range of energy and climate change issues. In addition, my officials hold regular discussions on specific issues relating to the development of carbon capture and storage. Officials from the Office of Carbon Capture and Storage met with representatives of a number of CCS project developers recently, including SSE, to discuss the development of the UK CCS Programme and will be holding an Industry Day on 16 December to provide further information on the selection process. We will not be making decisions about which projects to take forward before this process has been completed.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much Government funding will be provided for carbon capture and storage demonstration projects in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [85900]

Charles Hendry: We have made it clear that £1 billion is available to support CCS projects. We expect projects to come forward in this spending review period and for expenditure to be committed as part of that process. The detailed profile of spend will be determined by the projects selected and when they require funding. We and our partners also expect to invest £125 million in CCS R&D by 2015.

Carbon Sequestration: Finance

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 211W, on carbon sequestration: finance, when the competition for the carbon capture and storage fund will close; and over what timetable he expects the carbon capture and storage competition fund to be distributed. [86233]

Charles Hendry: We will be launching an accelerated process for the selection of CCS projects as soon as possible. The detailed profile of spend will be determined by the projects selected and when they require funding.

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the funding he announced for climate finance in Africa in his speech at the Grantham Institute on 24 November 2011 consists of funding previously announced by his Department. [86007]

Gregory Barker: I referred to a package of UK support to help Africa adapt to the impacts of climate change and move to low carbon development paths in a speech at the Grantham Institute on 24 November 2011. I announced the full details of this package in Durban on 6 December 2011.

The package is all funded out of an existing funding commitment—the UK's £2.9 billion International Climate Fund, which was announced in the 2010 spending review.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if the funding he announced to finance climate change adaptation and mitigation in his speech at the Grantham Institute on 24 November 2011 will meet the transparency criteria promoted by the International Aid Transparency Initiative. [86008]

Gregory Barker: Yes. This Government are committed to being open and transparent on how UK climate finance is spent. I announced a package of programmes to finance climate change adaptation and mitigation in Durban on 6 December. All of the programmes contribute to UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) and

information will be published to meet the transparency standards promoted by the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take at the Durban conference on climate change to secure global commitment to the Cancun summit aim of providing US $100 billion funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the developing world. [86009]

Gregory Barker: The UK has been working with EU member states and international partners at the Durban conference to make progress on long-term climate finance, to ensure that developed countries meet their commitment to mobilise $100 billion of public and private climate finance per year by 2020. Specifically, we aim to make progress on the recommendations of the Advisory Group on Climate Finance (AGF) and are looking to build on the work undertaken by the World Bank for G20 Finance Ministers.

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards. [85856]

Gregory Barker: DECC receives its catering services through a contract procured by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Guideline Daily Amounts (GDAs) labels, which provide information on calories, fats, saturated fats, salt and sugar, are provided on foods and have been rolled out across the DEFRA catering contract, which includes DECC.

In relation to those DECC non departmental public bodies who have catering contracts:

the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is planning to implement the labelling of calories on menus in the new year.

the Coal Authority's external catering services provider is developing menus and display boards for main courses on sale which will show calorie labelling. The menus and display boards will be available in the authority's canteen as from February 2012.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure the countries of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85857]

Gregory Barker: DECC receives its catering services through a contract procured by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The catering contractor has signed up to the industry principles, agreed with DEFRA, for country of origin labelling for meat and dairy products. The country of origin is identified on menus by indicating either UK (British), EU or global.

In relation to those DECC non-departmental public bodies who have contracts covering catering:

the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is planning to implement country of origin labelling on menus in the new year; and

the Coal Authority's food and catering services are provided by an external company under contract. The countries of origin are not displayed. The majority of the food provided is sourced from the United Kingdom. The remainder comprises fresh salad produce, tinned tomatoes and other produce, the origins of which will change during the year.

Departmental Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many flags his Department *(a)* owns and *(b)* maintains; and at what cost in the last 12 months. [86250]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has one standard Union flag on one of its buildings at 55 Whitehall.

In the last 12 months, the Department has not incurred any costs in relation to the flag.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what social media presence his Department has. [86244]

Gregory Barker: The Department has a social media presence on Twitter, Flickr, YouTube and Facebook.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many unique hits his Department's website received in each of the last 12 months. [86253]

Gregory Barker: The Department's website's unique hits for each of the last 12 months are as follows:

	Website hits
2011	
November	217,726
October	210,974
September	126,156
August	118,362
July	131,992
June	134,867
May	129,014
April	112,181
March	174,855
February	118,218
January	108,999
2010	
December	94,428

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff of his Department are aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 65 years. [86246]

Gregory Barker: As of 30 September 2011, the Department of Energy and Climate Change employed *(a)* 121 people who are aged over 55 years and *(b)* less than five who are aged over 65 years.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department previously worked for a political party. [86614]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) does not hold details of the previous employment of its staff on a central database. To search individual records to find this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people were working for his Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [86626]

Gregory Barker: The number of civil servants employed by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on specific dates is shown in the following table.

	Civil servants (including senior civil servants)
31 May 2010	1,018
30 November 2011	1,228

The number shown above are quoted as full-time equivalent.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what receptions and events have been hosted by his Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by a third party. [84192]

Gregory Barker: DECC uses a wide range of methods and channels to ensure stakeholders and the public are engaged with its policies. This includes hosting events itself, and where appropriate jointly with stakeholders, across the UK to maximise reach and value for money.

However, a comprehensive list of all receptions and events hosted by DECC since May 2010 is not held centrally and to assemble the information would entail disproportionate cost.

Engagement activity including events is reported regularly on the Department's website at

www.decc.gov.uk

Departmental Pay

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department receive salaries over £65,000 per year. [86624]

Gregory Barker: There were 69 civil servants in the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) receiving a salary of more than £65,000 as at 30 September 2011.

The salary figures used are base salary and do not include any allowances or non-consolidated performance related pay.

Press Releases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many press releases his Department has issued in the last 12 months. [86257]

Gregory Barker: DECC has issued 115 press releases in the last 12 months.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85655]

Gregory Barker: As part of its standard terms and conditions, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) requires its suppliers to provide goods and services in accordance with good industry practice and legal requirements. This includes consideration of areas with a social dimension such as health, safety and welfare and the Equality Act.

Policy Reviews

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; and on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings. [85876]

Gregory Barker: The following table sets out, in order of date announced, the policy reviews announced and undertaken by the Department of Energy and Climate Change since 6 May 2010, the date each was announced, and the date each was published, or is expected to be published.

Policy review	*Date announced*	*Date published/expected to publish*
Review of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme	27 July 2010	Headline results of the review were published in June 2011. A formal consultation on the details will be published in spring 2012.
Review of Climate Change Agreements	27 July 2010	The consultation was published in September 2011 and the Government response is expected in the new year.
Review of Ofgem	27 July 2010	A summary of conclusions was published 19 May 2011. The final report was published 12 July 2011.
Delivery Review	27 July 2010	Published 19 May 2011.

Policy review	*Date announced*	*Date published/expected to publish*
Fuel Poverty Review	HMG announced a review of the definition of fuel poverty as part of the comprehensive spending review, 20 October 2010. The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change appointed Professor Hills to carry out a review of the current definition of fuel poverty on 14 March 2011.	Professor Hills published his Interim Report 19 October 2011. The final report is due to be presented to Government in early 2012.
Review of the Feed-in Tariffs Scheme	7 February 2011	Findings on the fast-track element of the review were published on 9 June 2011. Overall findings from the comprehensive review will be announced during the first half of 2012.
Low Carbon Innovation Delivery Review	21 March 2011	Outcomes will be published on the DECC website prior to the new year.

Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on mandatory drug testing of its employees. [86251]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not have a policy of undertaking mandatory drug testing of its employees.

Drugs: Offences

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials of his Department have been disciplined for drug offences in the last 12 months for which information is available. [86258]

Gregory Barker: There have been no cases in the last 12 months where employees of the Department of Energy and Climate Change have been subject to disciplinary procedures for drugs offences.

Energy: Meters

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to encourage the uptake of smart meter time-of-use tariffs. [86074]

Gregory Barker: The Government's smart meter technical specifications will mandate energy suppliers to install meters with the functionality to support a range of time-of-use tariffs.

Planned changes to the settlement system together with half-hourly data from smart meter readings will enable energy suppliers to benefit to a greater extent from lower wholesale market prices during periods of off-peak demand. We expect suppliers to incentivise customers to shift energy demand to off-peak periods through developing and promoting attractive time-of-use tariffs.

Energy: Pensioners

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners who will receive the guaranteed £120 rebate on their energy bills under the warm home discount scheme in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* parliamentary constituency. [86392]

Gregory Barker: More than 600,000 of the poorest pensioners will receive a core group discount of £120 on their electricity bills this winter. Regional, local authority, or constituency breakdowns for these data are not available.

Energy: Prisons

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the number of jobs that would be created in the energy efficiency sector if all prisons were upgraded to an Energy Performance Certificate grade *(a)* A, *(b)* B and *(c)* C level. [86077]

Gregory Barker: We estimate that Government programmes to promote energy efficiency in homes, businesses and the public sector will support 65,000 insulation sector jobs in 2015. However, job creation figures specific to energy efficiency improvements in the prison sector are not available.

Green Deal Scheme

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 338W, on energy: housing, for what reason the recommendations of his Department's joint working group with the Ministry of Defence on improving the energy efficiency of service family accommodation were not set out in the consultation document on the Green Deal published this autumn. [85867]

Gregory Barker: The two Departments are still considering whether Green Deal can work in the particular context of service family accommodation, and the alternatives that may be available if not. We were therefore unable to include recommendations in the consultation document, but we will confirm the recommendations next year. None the less, in the consultation, we welcome any comments on the impact of Green Deal and the ECO on particular groups.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Green Deal Finance Company consortium on the potential for Green Deal-backed securities to reduce the cost of Green Deal finance. [86075]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and I met with representatives from the Green Deal Finance Company on 2 November

2011 to understand their proposals for providing low cost finance to Green Deal Providers. The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change also spoke by phone to a member of the consortium on 24 November 2011 following the launch of the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation consultation.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reason he has set the period for the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation consultation at eight weeks. [86083]

Gregory Barker: The consultation length was set for eight weeks on the basis of careful consideration. The tight timetable for delivering the Green Deal legal framework to provide business certainty was the primary reason. This has been accompanied by a comprehensive stakeholder engagement programme in advance of and during the consultation.

In line with best practice, we are also providing additional means for people to express their views, including a dedicated phone line, postal address, e-mail address, blog with commenting function and web chat with officials.

Nuclear Installations: EU Law

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he has taken to implement European Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom of 25 June 2009 establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations; what steps he has taken in response to infringement proceedings by the European Commission against the UK for non-compliance with Directive 2009/71/Euratom; and if he will make a statement. [85216]

Charles Hendry: The UK notified the European Commission (EC) on 19 July 2011 that we had given effect to the Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom using the existing UK regulatory regime. The EC has sought further information on two aspects of the UK's implementation—the provision of a correlation table and the implementation of the provisions in Gibraltar. A correlation table was provided on 19 July 2011 even though the directive does not require it. We are liaising with the Gibraltarian Government to ensure the necessary legislation is put in place even though there are no nuclear facilities on Gibraltar to which this directive would apply. It is expected that this work will be completed in early 2012. The UK Government will shortly be writing to the EC to confirm that a correlation table has already been provided and to inform it of progress with implementation in Gibraltar.

Nuclear Power

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the potential costs to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority of information gathering on (i) the market for mixed oxide fuel, (ii) the availability of reactors in which it can be burned and (iii) the costs and timescales for procuring services or facilities. [85788]

Charles Hendry: Support to the Government on the development of policy on plutonium management is part of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) approved strategy. It is estimated that DECC and the NDA will spend around £3 million to £5 million to gather all of the information required throughout the next phases of the programme. Costs are anticipated to be met from within the existing budgets.

Renewable Energy

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to promote *(a)* anaerobic digestion and *(b)* small hydro developments in Wales. [86189]

Gregory Barker: We are promoting anaerobic digestion and hydropower across the UK, including Wales, through the provision of financial incentives.

We are supporting *(a)* anaerobic digestion through the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme and the renewables obligation (RO) which support small scale and large scale electricity generation respectively; and the renewable heat incentive (RHI) which supports the production of heat and the injection of biomethane into the gas grid.

We are supporting the development of *(b)* small hydropower in Wales through FITs (<50kWs) and through FITs and the RO (>50kWs). Since 2009 the number of new hydro schemes licensed in Wales has increased nearly three times.

In addition, DECC continues to work closely with the Environment Agency, which has streamlined its permitting process and is reviewing its Good Practice Guide. DECC is consulting, before the end of this year, on accreditation for those small hydro schemes seeking access to feed-in tariffs. DECC also provides updated information on a range of alternative funding models for community hydro projects on DECC's "Community Energy Online":

http://ceo.decc.gov.uk/en/ceol/cms/about_ceih/economics_fund/economics_fund.aspx

Additionally, in January 2010, the Welsh Government launched the Ynni'r Fro programme, a scheme to support community scale renewable energy projects in Wales. So far, the programme has supported eight anaerobic digestion and 65 hydro projects in Wales. The Environment Agency Wales and the Forestry Commission Wales have both carried out detailed surveys of potential hydro sites in Wales. This information is being utilised by the Ynni'r Fro team to match up the sites with communities interested in taking hydro schemes forward.

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with private sector firms on proposals to develop *(a)* tidal power, *(b)* shale gas and *(c)* nuclear power in Wales. [86190]

Charles Hendry: All formal ministerial meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis and can be found on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/ministermtgs/ministermtgs.aspx

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions saved through the feed-in tariff system in 2010-11. [84106]

Gregory Barker: We cannot currently make this estimate, as generation data for Year 1 of the FITs scheme have not yet been collated by Ofgem.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what proportion of the spending envelope for the feed-in tariff for each year of the current spending review period is allocated to projects accredited between 1 April 2010 and 31 October 2011; [84388]

(2) what proportion of the spending envelope for the feed-in tariff for each year of the current spending review period is allocated for new projects accredited in that year. [84389]

Gregory Barker: New installations in any year are not specifically allocated a proportion of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) budget. The available amount in the budget for new installations in any year is impossible to predict in advance, as it will depend on the level of installations in previous years. This is because the budget is cumulative, and must cover the cost of projects accredited in previous years of the scheme as well as new projects.

We estimate the proportion of the levies control framework spending envelope taken up by projects accredited up to 31 October to be as follows:

Costs to consumers	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*Total*
£ million, nominal undiscounted					
FITs costs (rounded)	110	215	220	230	775
FITs budget (revised)	94	196	328	446	1,064
Costs as percentage of revised budget (rounded)	120	110	65	50	70
FITs budget (original)	80	161	269	357	867
Costs as percentage of original budget (rounded)	140	135	80	65	90

The table above shows the committed spend on FITs as a proportion of both the original and revised FITs spending limits. The spending limit for FITs as originally published—the fourth line of the table—referred to projected additional expenditure over and above the baseline of installations of less than 5 MW that would have been deployed in the absence of the FITs scheme (because some of those small-scale installations would have come forward under the renewables obligation (RO)).

In the revised estimate of the FITs spending limit—the second line of the table—that baseline has been incorporated into the spending limit for FITs, as we judge that the small scale installations are more likely to take up FITs in preference to the RO. The effect of this adjustment is to increase the FITs spending envelope (as shown in the table) and reduce the RO spending envelope by the same amount, compared with the original spending limits published for each scheme. This is a technical adjustment to the published spending limits which merely provides a more accurate picture of the money that was always available for each of the two schemes. We have not made more subsidy available overall, but DECC still has flexibility on how it meets the overall levies control framework as long as expenditure as a whole is controlled i.e. overspend on one policy can be balanced by underspend in another.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish his Department's response to the comprehensive feed-in tariff review phase 1. [85779]

Gregory Barker: We plan to announce the outcome of the current consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar photovoltaics towards the end of January, and by 8 February 2012 at the latest, in order to make it possible to change rates from 1 April 2012. We are aware that the industry needs certainty as soon as possible, and will strive to announce at the earliest opportunity.

Solar Power

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of people employed by solar photovoltaic manufacturing companies based in the UK. [85253]

Gregory Barker: It is difficult to accurately estimate, and forecast, number of jobs associated with any single technology or sector, such as solar PV. However, there are a range of methodologies that can, and are, being used to provide an indication; these inevitably lead to a range of estimates being calculated.

We estimate that, based on the number of solar photovoltaic (PV) installations by the end of October 2011, around 8,000 to 14,000 gross full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs have been supported by solar PV since the introduction of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme. The total number of people doing some solar PV work is likely to be higher than this range because those who are involved in solar PV installations are also likely to undertake other tasks linked to their employment. In addition, this estimate includes manufacturing jobs among a range of other types.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 44W, on solar power: feed-in tariffs, what the evidential basis is for the estimate that 1,000 to 10,000 gross additional full-time equivalent jobs could be created in the solar sector in the three years to 2014-15. [85776]

Gregory Barker: It is difficult to accurately estimate, and forecast, numbers of jobs associated with any single technology or sector, such as solar PV. However, there are a range of methodologies that can, and are, being used to provide an indication, although these inevitably lead to a range of estimates being calculated.

The range of 1,000 to 10,000 gross full-time equivalent jobs supported by solar PV is calculated by applying estimates of the time taken for various tasks associated with those installations by industry and independent consultants to projected installations between 2012-13 and 2014-15. They are then converted to a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis. The wide range around the estimate is largely due to the uncertainty surrounding how the energy efficiency proposals could affect future take-up of solar PV.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households and businesses in each region of the UK have installed solar panels utilising the Government-subsidised feed-in tariff scheme. [80572]

Gregory Barker: The number of domestic and non-domestic solar photovoltaic (PV) installations registered for feed-in tariffs by region, as at end of September 2011[1], are:

Region	*Domestic PV installations*	*Percentage of domestic PV installations*	*Non-domestic[3] PV installations*	*Percentage non-domestic PV installations*
East Midlands	6,943	9	107	7
East of England	9,470	12	127	9
London	2,364	3	103	7
North East	1,532	2	54	4
North West	5,042	7	102	7
South East	14,642	19	168	12
South West	14,251	19	271	19
West Midlands	5,311	7	135	9
Yorkshire and the Humber	8,471	11	86	6
England	68,026	88	1,153	80
Wales	4,135	5	88	6
Scotland	4,221	5	56	4
Unallocated[2]	584	1	148	10
Total	76,966	100	1,445	100

[1] Data are sourced from the Central FIT Register maintained by Ofgem. The register is continually being updated and revised, so statistical reports extracted at a later date may not exactly match the totals presented here. Local authority data can be found on the DECC website http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/electricity/electricity.aspx titled 'Feed-in Tariff Capacity (ET5.6)'.

[2] Schemes that could not be allocated at local authority level.

[3] Non-domestic installations include industrial, commercial and community installations.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 315-6W, on renewable energy: feed-in tariffs, if he will make it his policy to ensure that all solar PV installations with a commissioning date before 12 December 2011 are eligible for the existing tariff level. [85777]

Gregory Barker: An installation becomes eligible for feed-in tariffs (FITs) from its eligibility date. The term "eligibility date" is defined in condition 33 of the standard conditions of electricity supply licences, and is the latter of either:

(a) the date on which the installation is commissioned; or

(b) the date on which a valid application for FITs has been received by either Ofgem (in the case of solar photovoltaic (PV) installations with a declared net capacity of over 50kW) or a FIT licensee (in the case of solar PV installations with a declared net capacity of up to 50kW).

Our consultation on FITs for solar photovoltaics (PV) proposes that new tariffs will be implemented from 1 April 2012 but will apply to all new PV installations with an eligibility date on or after a proposed "reference date" of 12 December 2011. For the majority of solar PV installations, the eligibility date will be the date on which a valid application is received by the FITs licensee, normally the applicant's electricity supplier.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 616W, on feed-in tariffs, whether the second consultation on the comprehensive review will seek views on further changes to feed-in tariffs for solar PV. [85868]

Gregory Barker: Phase 2 of the consultation on the comprehensive review will consider all non-solar photovoltaic tariffs and administrative aspects of the feed-in tariffs scheme, including potential cost control measures for all technologies.

Taxation: Nuclear Power

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the potential introduction of a tax on the revenue generated by nuclear power stations. [85817]

Charles Hendry: Tax is a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. DECC Ministers have regular conversations with HM Treasury Ministers on a wide range of issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such discussions.

UK Global Threat Reduction Programme

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has contributed to the UK Global Threat Reduction Programme in each of the last three financial years; on what aspects of the programme such contributions are spent; and what the programme has published in each of the last three financial years. [77287]

Charles Hendry: The UK Global Threat Reduction Programme (GTRP) forms an important element of the UK's counter-proliferation strategy. It delivers the UK contribution to the G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, a $20 billion ten-year programme agreed at the G8 Summit at Kananaskis, Canada in 2002 with an initial focus on the nuclear and chemical weapons legacies of the former Soviet Union.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is responsible for implementing the nuclear and radiological parts of the GTRP. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) manages the chemical and biological elements of the programme. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) holds the overall policy responsibility.

For each of the last three financial years (2008-09; 2009-10; 2010-11) the GTRP had a ring fenced budget of £36.5 million per annum, allocated to DECC for both the DECC and MOD programmes. In 2010-11 DECC contributed an additional £9 million to GTRP, in order that the UK fully met its share of the G8 pledge to the April 2011 Chernobyl pledging conference.

Over the course of the Global Partnership, the UK has developed a mature portfolio of programmes aimed at:

- improving the security of nuclear materials;
- dealing with the Soviet nuclear submarine legacy in North West Russia;
- the destruction of Russia's chemical weapons stocks;
- reducing the proliferation risk posed by unemployed former Soviet nuclear weapon scientists by supporting the creation of alternative sustainable employment.

Further details of the annual expenditure breakdown across all GTRP programmes can be found in the GTRP annual reports for 2008 (published spring 2009), 2009 (published spring 2010) and 2010 (published spring 2011), copies of which were placed in the House Library and which can also be found on the DECC website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/en_security/nonprolif/global_threat/global_threat.aspx

In addition to these three annual reports, in late 2009, DECC published a completion report on its Nuclear Safety Programme, which closed in early 2009. In spring 2010 DECC published the findings of an independent external impact evaluation of the UK-funded "Social and Economic Consequences of Nuclear Power Plant Closure" programme, which closed in 2007. Both these reports are available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/en_security/nonprolif/global_threat/reports/reports.aspx

WORK AND PENSIONS

Apprentices

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of 16 to 24-year-olds likely to participate in the Youth Contract in *(a)* the East Midlands and *(b)* Leicester City. [85783]

Chris Grayling: Over the coming weeks we will be working with Work programme providers, employers and key stakeholders to develop the detail of the recently announced Youth Contract.

Overall the Youth Contract will provide:

- 160,000 wage incentives, worth £2,275 each, available through the Work programme;
- an extra 250,000 work experience or sector-based work academy places over the next three years, taking the total to at least 100,000 a year;
- at least 20,000 extra incentive payments worth £1,500 each for employers to take on young people as apprentices;
- extra support through Jobcentre Plus for all 18 to 24-year-olds; and
- a new £150 million programme to provide support to some of our most vulnerable 16 to 17-year-olds who are not in employment, education or training.

No estimates for participation at local levels have yet been made.

Departmental Assets

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assets his Department owns in Birmingham; and what is the estimated value of each such asset. [85542]

Chris Grayling: This response is based on the definition of assets referring to departmental buildings and their contents. Since 1998 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) occupies the majority of its accommodation across the country under a 20-year private finance initiative (PFI) known as the PRIME Contract. Under the terms of this PFI the Department leases back fully furnished and serviced accommodation from its private sector partner Telereal Trillium. This covers a variety of building and facility management services. Therefore, the Department does not own building assets in Birmingham, or in any other part of the country.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80201]

Chris Grayling: DWP spent £1,614,326 in 2010-11 on design, editorial and branding with regard to publicity and marketing carried out by DWP Communications.

In respect of buildings design, since 1998 the Department for Work and Pensions occupies the majority of its accommodation under a private finance initiative (PFI) known as the PRIME Contract. Under the terms of this PFI the Department leases back fully serviced accommodation from its private sector partner Telereal Trillium. This covers the provision of a variety of building and facility management services including the capital expenditure projects (CAPEX) where buildings require alterations to meet changing business requirements. Telereal Trillium's estimate of design costs incurred on CAPEX projects during 2010-11 is £900,000 excluding VAT.

Departmental Information Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84187]

Chris Grayling: Since the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Angus (Mr Weir) on 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 318-19W, the Department has reduced communications staff by 24%. As a minimum the number will reduce by a further 13% by March 2015.

Department for Work and Pensions Communications Directorate[1]

	Number
Press Officers (including Regional Press)	21
Internal Communications Officers	47
External Communications Officers	4
Other positions with a communications remit	40

[1] These figures include JCP and PDCS staff who have now transferred to the Communications Directorate.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

	Number
Press Officers	3
Internal Communications Officers	9
External Communications Officers	4
Communications Strategy Officers	8
Other positions with a communications remit	10

Health and Safety Executive

	Number
Press Officers	7
Internal Communications Officers	7
External Communications Officers	[1,2]12
Communications Strategy Officers	5
Other positions with a communications remit	1

[1] Of which one is an interim.
[2] Includes newly created Office for Nuclear Regulation Communications function.

Independent Living Fund

	Number
Press Officers	0
Internal Communications Officers	1
External Communications Officers	2
Communications Strategy Officers	1
Other positions with a communications remit	0

National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) Corporation

	Number
Press Officers	3
Internal Communications Officers	0
External Communications Officers	[1]19
Communications Strategy Officers	3
Other positions with a communications remit	14

[1] Including four interims.

Pension Protection Fund

	Number
Press Officers	2
Internal Communications Officers	2
External Communications Officers	2
Communications Strategy Officers	0
Other positions with a communications remit	0

Remploy Ltd

	Note
Press Officers	2
Internal Communications Officers	1
External Communications Officers	3
Communications Strategy Officers	2
Other positions with a communications remit	2

The Pensions Regulator

	Number
Press Officers	4
Internal Communications Officers	2
External Communications Officers	[1]12
Communications Strategy Officers	2
Other positions with a communications remit	[1]6

[1] Plus two non-payroll staff

Departmental Pay

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse was of Christmas bonus payments in each of the last five years; and what proportion was spent on administration of the payment. [84619]

Steve Webb: Christmas bonus expenditure for the last five years is shown in the following table.

The amounts shown exclude the cost of administrating the Christmas bonus payment as this information is not available; the table only shows the actual money paid to customers.

					£ million
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Christmas bonus—contributory	126	127	823	121	122
Christmas bonus—non-contributory	19	20	221	32	32
Total	145	147	1,044	154	155

Notes:
1. Christmas bonus was increased to £70 in 2008-09, for one year only; in all other years it was £10.
2. The majority of Christmas bonus payments are made with a qualifying benefit and, as such, it is not possible to disaggregate the administration cost. However, these costs are minimal as the significant majority of payments are automated.

Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any senior staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85068]

Chris Grayling: The Department's policy is that salaries are paid into employees' bank accounts.

Some agency workers are deployed to provide short-term cover for absence or as specialist contractors providing specific expertise that is not available in-house and in these cases, payments may be made to limited companies in lieu of a salary.

There are currently three senior staff (senior civil service level) working in the Department on an agency basis, one in DWP and two in the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, who are paid via Capita Resourcing Ltd. Capita Resourcing Ltd provides a managed service under contract for the supply of contingent labour to DWP and other Government Departments.

In the Office for Nuclear Regulation, an internal agency of the Health and Safety Executive, two senior staff are paid by means of payments to limited companies in lieu of a salary.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84236]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions have specifically outsourced the following services:

Contract identifier	*Contract name*	*Service description*	*Year*
UI_DWP_001104	Fleet Lease and Management	Official vehicle fleet including private user scheme vehicles and associated fleet management services	2007
UI_DWP_000281	Print and Associated Services Solution(PASS)	Managed in a number of towers ranging from stationery to leaflets and core print services	2007
UI_DWP_000031	Contract for the provision of Temporary Workers	Agency, temporary admin and clerical personnel (via a master vendor service)	2007
UI_DWP_000022	Occupational Health Framework	Job assessment/ placement—mandatory referrals, work placement, pre-recruitment checks, attendance management, case conferences, physiotherapy advice	2008
UI_DWP_000024	Nursery Service	In-house nursery provision for use by DWP and Department of Health staff at Quarry House	2008
UI_DWP_000026	Evaluation for Senior Staff	Job Evaluation for Senior Staff (Jobcentre Plus)	2008
UI_DWP_000027	Employee Assistance Programme	Counselling, Legal and Financial Helpline services for DWP employees	2005
UI_DWP_000029	Salary Sacrifice Scheme	Tax efficient child care voucher service	2007
UI_DWP_000032	Legal Services	Legal advice and guidance to the Estates function	2008
UI_DWP_000033	Legal Services	Legal advice and guidance in respect of commercial legal issues	2008
UI_DWP_000036	Medical Advice to Staff Retiring on Medical Grounds	Provision of medical advice to staff retiring on medical grounds	2009
UI_DWP_000038	Outplacement Support	Advice and guidance for employees leaving as part of a management approved voluntary early release scheme	2009
UI_DWP_000039	Legal Advice	Legal advice and guidance to the Corporate IT function in respect of IT contracts	2008
UI_DWP_000040	Well-being and Productivity Management	Online well-being assessment and launch events	2009
UI_DWP_000044	Reward and Recognition Scheme	Provision of small value reward scheme	2010
UI_DWP_000046	Legal Services	Business Support, HR Services and Legal Service for Employment Law	2010
UI_DWP_002009	Westminster Play scheme	Play scheme provision in Westminster	2010
UI_DWP_002012	Temporary Administrative Staff	Temporary Admin and Clerical Personnel	2010
UI_DWP_000025	Nursery Service	In House Nursery Glasgow BDC	2008
Various	Learning and Development Services	Multiple contracts for the delivery of staff learning and development training[1]	2006

[1] Learning and Development contracts—some of this provision may have been previously delivered in-house, some will have been traditionally delivered by an external supplier (outsourced). It is not possible to determine without examining each case in consultation with the business customer and/or HR.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85648]

Chris Grayling: Internal audit services in the Department and its public bodies work to the Government Internal Audit Standards (GIAS), which are mandatory for all central Government Departments, agencies and executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). These are published on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/internalaudit_gias_0211.pdf

This framework applies to in-house internal audit services, shared services and to outsourced arrangements, and requires that:

the chief audit executive must establish risk-based plans to determine the priorities of the internal audit activity, consistent with the organisation's goals (Standard 2010);

the internal audit activity's plan of engagements must be based on a documented risk assessment, undertaken at least annually. The input of senior management and the board must be considered in this process (Standard 2010.A1);

the chief audit executive must identify and consider the expectations of senior management, the board and other stakeholders for internal audit opinions and other conclusions (Standard 2010.A2); and

the chief audit executive should consider accepting proposed consulting engagements based on the engagement's potential to improve management of risks, add value and improve the organisation's operations. Accepted engagements must be included in the plan (Standard 2010.C1).

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85657]

Chris Grayling: As part of the commissioning process, all contracts above £10,000 in value are advertised on Contracts Finder with those suitable for small and medium enterprises and voluntary organisations identified accordingly.

The Department, and its public bodies, consider social value in the initial stages of commissioning services by using sustainable procurement risk assessment methodology (SPRAM).

SPRAM is mandatory for all new contracts and considers the impact of diversity and equality, people with disabilities, the use of supported factories and businesses, the suitability of small and medium enterprises and voluntary organisations and questions whether or not there are unacceptable labour standards in the supply chain.

Where relevant and proportionate, social value factors can be scored as part of the evaluation process during the commissioning phase. Following contract award, suppliers are asked to complete periodical returns demonstrating how they have implemented those social value aspects of the contract they are delivering.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [85714]

Chris Grayling: The risk registers held by the public bodies for which my Department is responsible are shown as follows:

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

There is an overarching risk register for each directorate within the commission.

Health and Safety Executive

Health and Safety Executive holds a corporate risk register which is supported by subsidiary project and directorate risk registers as appropriate.

Independent Living Fund

The Independent Living Fund maintains a number of risk registers:

a strategic risk register;

five internal directorate risk registers; and

project risk registers.

National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) Corporation

National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) Corporation maintains two risk registers. The principal register supports the identification and management of all business and delivery risks within the organisation. The second register is focused on NEST Corporation's information security risks.

Pensions ombudsman

The pensions ombudsman has the following risk registers:

operational risk register; and a

strategic risk register.

Pension Protection Fund

Pension Protection Fund has the following registers:

Risk Universe;

team risk registers;

information risk registers;

key process risk registers;

topic-based risk registers;

financial risk register;

project risk registers; and a

tri-partite risk register.

Remploy Ltd

Remploy Ltd has:

a strategic risk framework (register);

high level business risk frameworks; and

individual business and departmental registers.

The Pensions Advisory Service

The Pensions Advisory Service has the following risk registers:

corporate risk register;

pensions risk register;

service area risk registers; and

project risk registers for major projects.

The Pensions Regulator

The Pensions Regulator has one risk register.

Employment and Support Allowance: Expenditure

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the projection made by the Office for Budget Responsibility that expenditure on employment and support allowance will be £1 billion more than previously expected by 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [85809]

Chris Grayling: The new projections made by the Office for Budget Responsibility of employment and support allowance (ESA) expenditure reflect the latest data on the number of claimants assessed as fit for work, the most up to date assumptions on the composition of the caseload and the number of new claims.

Employment and Support Allowance: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals in Peterborough constituency currently in receipt of employment and support allowance in the Work Related Activity Group with a prognosis of six months are being migrated into work; and if he will make a statement. [85338]

Chris Grayling: The Department regularly publishes National Statistics which provide information on the caseloads of various different benefits to the constituency level. This information can be found by using the tabulation tool ('Tabtool') on the departmental website here:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

The Tabtool shows that as at May 2011, the latest data available, there were 1,620 people on employment and support allowance in the Peterborough parliamentary constituency and of these, 550 were in the Work Related Activity Group.

Information on the prognosis given by the Atos Healthcare Professional following the work capability assessment is available for claims flowing on to employment and support allowance by local authority area rather than parliamentary constituency. Note that on-flow figures are not directly comparable to the caseload figures provided above.

Between March 2010 and February 2011 (the most recent period for which data are available) there were 2,090 new claims for employment and support allowance (ESA) in the Peterborough local authority area. Of these 530 went into the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) following the initial work capability assessment. Of those claims going into the WRAG, 140 (26%) were given a prognosis of three months, 260 (49%) had a prognosis of six months and the remaining 130 (25%) were given a prognosis of 12 months or longer.

This information is taken from administrative data held by DWP, and assessment data provided by Atos Healthcare. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

ESA claimants in the WRAG will have the opportunity to join the Work programme, when the outcome from their work capability assessment is known. The Work programme was launched on 10 June 2011 and is now in place nationally. This is the biggest single payment by results employment programme Great Britain has ever seen, providing personalised support to an expected 2.4 million claimants over the next seven years.

Information on the numbers leaving ESA to move into work is not currently available. The Work programme has only been in place for six months, and the measures of its success are long term. The Department is closely monitoring all aspects of the Work programme, and will publish this information as soon as reliable and meaningful data are available, in accordance with guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority. Official statistics on referrals will be available from spring 2012, and on job outcomes from autumn 2012.

Employment Schemes

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average duration of work experience placements has been since January 2011. [85536]

Chris Grayling: This information is not available. Work experience placements are expected to last for a period of between two and eight weeks, with an optional extension to up to 12 weeks if the employer decides they would like to offer the participant an apprenticeship and that offer is accepted.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to ensure Prime Contractors to the Work programme are using the Compact with the voluntary sector in their discussions with subcontractors from the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [85681]

Chris Grayling: The principles of the Compact have been taken forward through the Code of Conduct which underpins the DWP Commissioning Strategy. These principles are further embedded through the Merlin Standard which all Work programme providers are required to achieve as a condition of their contracts. Merlin assessments will take place from spring 2012 and biannually thereafter.

The Merlin Standard will require that all subcontractors are treated fairly in their dealings with Prime Contractors and that supply chains remain robust and healthy. Primes that do not fulfil their obligations will be subject to action for breach of contract and may lose their contracts.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people in *(a)* the East Midlands and *(b)* Leicester City have participated in the work experience programme. [85785]

Chris Grayling: Details of the number of young people who have participated in work experience from the East Midlands region, and Leicestershire parliamentary constituencies is available and shown in the following table.

Work experience participants up to August 2011

	Number
East Midlands region	1,270
Leicester East	60
Leicester South	70
Leicester West	60
North West Leicestershire	30

Work experience participants up to August 2011

	Number
South Leicestershire	20

Notes:
1. Data source—DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database September 2011.
2. Due to data protection protocols, any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding, totals may not be the sum of the individual cells.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Labour Market Interventions Strategy Division.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people *(a)* were referred to and *(b)* took up work experience placements in each month since January 2011. [85532]

Chris Grayling: Figures are not available for the number of young people referred to work experience.

The most recent statistics for work experience starts were published on 16 November 2011, for the period January to August 2011. There have been a total of 16,360 work experience starts between January and August 2011. A breakdown of this information can be found in the following table:

Work experience starts

2011	Number
January	60
February	290
March	980
April	1,350
May	2,210
June	3,150
July	3,830
August	4,520

Notes:
1. Values are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash.
3. Due to rounding totals may not be the sum of the individual cells.
4. Months are calendar months.

Source:
DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database September 2011.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many 16 to 24 year olds in *(a)* the East Midlands and *(b)* Leicester City have found sustainable employment following participation in the work experience programme. [85782]

Chris Grayling: This information is unavailable. However recent early analysis, based on a national sample of 1,300 participants, indicates that less than half of participants are claiming working age benefits after 13 weeks of starting a work experience placement.

Enterprise Allowance Scheme

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people registered as unemployed who are eligible for the enterprise allowance *(a)* in Merseyside and *(b)* nationally. [86356]

Chris Grayling: The new enterprise allowance is available to unemployed people aged 18 and above who have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for six months or more and who are not on the Work programme.

In October, there were 11,010 people in Merseyside and 314,355 nationally aged over 18 who had been claiming JSA for six months or more. These figures include claimants who may have been referred to the Work programme and are therefore higher than the number of people actually eligible.

Housing Benefit

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many social tenants he estimates will lose some housing benefit because they are under-occupying their home; and how many and what proportion of these he expects to be *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* disabled people. [84772]

Steve Webb: From April 2013 we intend to restrict housing benefit for working-age claimants living in the social rented sector where the claimant and the claimant's household under-occupy their accommodation.

We estimate that approximately 670,000 housing benefit claimants are likely to be affected by the introduction of size criteria in the social rented sector, and experience reductions in housing benefit as a result.

A breakdown of the categories of working age households affected is included in the equality impact assessment of the social sector size criteria, published to accompany the Welfare Reform Bill.

The equality impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011.pdf

Notes:
1. For housing benefit, the threshold between working-age and pension-age is determined by reference to the qualifying age for state pension credit. This is linked to planned changes in the state pension age for women.
2. Exceptionally, a pensioner may choose to claim a working-age benefit, such as income-based jobseeker's allowance, rather than claiming pension credit. In these situations the claimant would be assessed in line with the working-age rules for housing benefit.
3. Alternative definitions of disability would produce differing estimates of the number of disabled households affected by the social sector size criteria.

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of fathers aged *(a)* 16 to 24 and *(b)* 25 to 34 who will be affected by the extension of the shared accommodation rate of local housing allowance. [86348]

Steve Webb: The shared accommodation rate already applies to single people under 25, so no fathers aged 16 to 24 will be affected by the change in the age threshold.

It is estimated that around 10,000 of the people affected by the extension of the shared accommodation rate are non-resident parents who have some contact, although not necessarily overnight contact, with children who live elsewhere.

All of these are aged 25 to 34, and most are fathers. This excludes parents who do not currently have any contact with their children.

Source:
DWP analysis of Single Housing Benefit Extract, 2008/09 Family Resources Survey and 2008 Families and Children Survey. This estimate is based on a small number of sample survey cases and is subject to a large degree of uncertainty.

Housing Benefit: Wales

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how many recipients of local housing allowance (LHA) in Wales the level of payment will change if *(a)* LHA rates are set at the 30th percentile of local market rents and *(b)* LHA levels are restricted to the four bedroom rate; and what proportion of those affected will be women. [85908]

Steve Webb: Estimates of the numbers affected in Wales by the local housing allowance (LHA) changes are published on the Department for Work and Pensions website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/impacts-of-hb-proposals.pdf

(Table 16 shows the impact of setting LHA rates at the 30th percentile, and Table 20 shows the impact of restricting LHA levels).

Estimates of the proportion of those affected in Wales who are women are not available. The published Equality Impact Assessment for the measures shows the estimated proportions affected by gender for Great Britain. This is available at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lha-eia-nov10.pdf

(Annex E, Table 25 shows the impact of setting LHA rates at the 30th percentile, and Annex D, Table 20 shows the impact of restricting LHA levels).

Incapacity Benefit: Aberdeen

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the results of the incapacity benefit reassessment pilots in Aberdeen and Burnley informed the recalculation of the future costs of employment and support allowance reported at the Autumn Statement by the Office for Budget Responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [86178]

Chris Grayling: The first stage of incapacity benefit reassessment began in October 2010 with a trial involving 1,700 customers from the Burnley and Aberdeen benefit centres. This trial was designed to provide early indicators about customer and staff reactions to the reassessment process.

The data from the trial influenced changes to the initial assumptions for IB reassessment used in the expenditure forecasts. The trial results suggested the fit for work rate was higher than originally assumed. Additionally, a higher proportion of claimants being moved on to ESA were placed in the support group than initially assumed. However, the trial data need to be used with caution as they may not reflect the national picture. We will continue to monitor the assumptions used in the expenditure forecasts as more data become available.

Income Support: Mortgages

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of expenditure on support for mortgage interest for people who receive employment and support allowance in the *(a)* Support Group, *(b)* Work Related Activity Group and *(c)* Assessment Phase in each financial year to 2015-16. [86079]

Chris Grayling: The following table shows forecasts of housing requirements. Housing requirements include support for mortgage interest and other housing elements not included in housing benefit.

£ million

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*	*2016-17*
Assessment	1	17	22	22	25	18	17	18	21
WRAG	0	8	21	30	44	52	55	63	71
SG	0	2	6	11	22	27	28	32	39
Total	1	28	49	64	92	97	100	113	131

Jobseeker's Allowance: Young People

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of introducing weekly signing for all 18 to 24-year-olds on jobseeker's allowance from the fifth month of their claim. [85584]

Chris Grayling: The cost of providing weekly signing was included as part of a package of support within the Youth Contract that is expected to cost nearly £1 billion over the next three years. The final costs for weekly signing will be driven by the volume of claimants and the Department for Work and Pensions does not forecast unemployment levels.

National Benefit Fraud Hotline

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many referrals through the National Benefit Fraud Hotline were made by hon. Members in each of the last five years; and how many investigations were launched as a result of such referrals. [86006]

Chris Grayling: All information received by the Department in relation to an allegation of benefit fraud, including that received through the National Benefit Fraud Hotline (NBFH) is treated as confidential. All referrals to the NBFH are therefore anonymised so the information requested is not kept by the Department.

Older Workers: East Midlands

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the Youth Contract on older employees in *(a)* East Midlands and *(b)* Leicester City. [85816]

Chris Grayling: Our existing programmes will be supporting up to 350,000 young people over the next two years, but we recognise that the current economic situation means that some young people are still finding

that getting work is not easy. The Youth Contract is being introduced with the aim of getting more young people involved in meaningful jobs and training early in their working lives to ensure that they are not left behind.

This renewed effort is not expected to be to the detriment of older workers, and we will continue to offer a full and effective package of support to help older unemployed people through a range of flexible support offered by Jobcentre Plus. For those at risk of long-term unemployment there is the Work programme, and for those interested in setting up a business there is the new enterprise allowance.

PAYE

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how his Department plans to participate in the April 2012 pilot of PAYE real time information; and if he will make a statement. [86180]

Chris Grayling: DWP has been working closely with HMRC to ensure readiness for the implementation of PAYE real time information. DWP's intention is to participate during the pilot year but will not be part of the initial pilot. HMRC has confirmed that there is sufficient employer representation for the pilot at April 2012.

Poverty: Children

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of children who would be living in poverty *(a)* before and *(b)* after housing costs in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15 on the basis of (i) the policies in place prior to the Autumn Statement and (ii) implementation of those policies. [86179]

Maria Miller: The Government have not forecast how many children they expect to be in poverty before and after the introduction of the policies announced in the autumn statement for each year to 2014-15. Child poverty is dependent on a number of factors which cannot be reliably predicted.

Analysis shows an estimated increase of around 100,000 in 2012-13; on the measure used previously (i.e. the impact of tax and benefit changes on the number of children living in households with an income less than 60% of the median).

But this does not represent a forecast of the actual change in child poverty year on year. When, as is currently and exceptionally the case, CPI is substantially higher than average earnings growth, uprating benefits by CPI will act to reduce child poverty, all other things being equal.

This measurement also does not take into account the value of public services which benefit children, such as education and health care. These are very important tools in improving life chances, particularly among poorer households.

Social Fund

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria are used to prioritise who will receive payments from the Social Fund; how these criteria will be affected by implementation of the Welfare Reform Bill; and if he proposes to issue guidance on the distribution of the Social Fund under the new legislative framework. [85437]

Steve Webb: The eligibility criteria for an award from each type of Social Fund Payment is set out in the Department for Work and Pensions' publication SB16—A guide to the Social Fund available on the departmental website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/technical-guidance/sb16-a-guide-to-the-social/

The Welfare Reform Bill introduces universal credit. With the exception of pension credit, the qualifying benefits that are part of the eligibility criteria for most Social Fund payments will eventually be replaced by universal credit. The Social Security Advisory Committee has been commissioned to carry out an independent review of passported benefits and the links with universal credit, including Regulated Social Fund. This review is still taking place and the Committee has been asked to report by the end of January 2012. The Department will publish the final report alongside its response by the end of April.

Winter fuel payments are Regulated Social Fund payments. Eligibility is not linked to receipt of benefits as they are paid to most people over women's state pension age. There are no plans to change the current eligibility criteria for winter fuel payments.

Clause 70 of the Welfare Reform Bill will allow budgeting loans to be awarded for funeral and maternity expenses. This change will be implemented two months after Royal Assent and the guidance will be updated accordingly.

Only Community Care Grants have a local funding allocation and this will not be affected by the Welfare Reform Bill. Clause 69 of the Welfare Reform Bill ends discretionary Social Fund payments. Crisis loans and community care grants will come to an end in April 2013. They will be replaced by a combination of local provision and a national scheme of payments on account of benefit, neither of which will be part of the Social Fund. Budgeting Loans will be phased out as universal credit is introduced and will be replaced by budgeting advances within universal credit.

After April 2013 the remaining Social Fund Payments have a national funding allocation and therefore guidance on distribution of funding is not necessary.

Social Security Benefits

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received more than £10,000 in benefits in each parliamentary constituency in the most recent year for which figures are available. [84888]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

While information on DWP administered benefits is available at constituency level we do not hold complete information on those benefits administered by other Government Departments and organisations. Restricting analysis to those benefits administered directly by DWP may present a misleading picture of benefit receipt. In addition, we estimate that developing an appropriate

methodology and quality assuring any analysis of DWP administrative data would exceed disproportionate cost limits.

The table provides estimates of the number of benefit units in receipt of benefit and tax credit income in excess of £10,000 in 2009-10 based on the latest release of the Family Resources Survey (FRS).

The FRS is a clustered sample designed to produce robust estimates at former Government Office Region (GOR) level. Sample sizes below this level will be small, and not every area within a GOR will be covered by the FRS in any year, therefore we are not able to produce estimates at the constituency level.

Number of benefit units in receipt of benefit and tax credit income in excess of £10,000 per year

	Number
North-east	300,000
North-west	800,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	500,000
East midlands	400,000
West midlands	600,000
East	500,000
London	700,000
South-east	700,000
South-west	500,000
England	5,100,000
Wales	300,000
Scotland	500,000
Northern Ireland	200,000
United Kingdom	6,100,000

Notes:

1. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of UK households. Data for 2009-10 was collected between April 2009 and March 2010.
2. The figures from the Family Resources Survey are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to former Government Office Region population by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
3. Results have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.
4. The Family Resources Survey is known to under-record benefit receipt and so estimates should be treated with caution.
5. A benefit unit is defined as a single adult or a married or cohabiting couple and any dependent children; from January 2006 same-sex partners (civil partners and cohabitees) are included in the same benefit unit.
6. A benefit unit has been defined as in receipt of a benefit or tax credit if at least one member of the benefit unit is in receipt of income from at least one benefit or tax credit.

Source:

Family Resources Survey, 2009-10

Social Security Benefits

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely change in *(a)* benefits expenditure and *(b)* number of claimants for each benefit for which his Department is responsible during the forecast period. [85439]

Chris Grayling: The latest forecasts of benefit expenditure, which are consistent with the 2011 Autumn Statement have been published at the following address:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/autumn_2011_table_1a_and_1b.xls

The available information has also been placed in the Library.

Caseload information which is consistent with the Autumn Statement will be published on 21 of December at the following address:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=medium_term

A copy will also be placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Foreign Nationals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many non-UK citizens were in receipt of each type of welfare benefit in each of the last five years; [84411]

(2) how many non-UK citizens were registered with Jobcentre Plus in each of the last five years. [84412]

Chris Grayling: The UK's benefit payment systems do not record the nationality of claimants as nationality itself is not a condition of entitlement. Therefore, it is not possible to determine the number of non-UK nationals claiming benefit or registered with Jobcentre Plus from administrative data.

I have commissioned work to release information regarding the nationality of benefits claimants at the point of registration for a national insurance number. I hope to make these preliminary statistics available shortly. In addition, I have asked my officials to look in to ways of capturing nationality information at source.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to tackle benefit fraud in Peterborough constituency; and if he will make a statement. [85225]

Chris Grayling: Fraud in the benefit system is a serious problem, which is currently costing the taxpayer £1.6 billion a year in benefit and tax credit fraud. This loss is unfair, unaffordable and unacceptable. This is why our joint DWP and HMRC fraud and error strategy published last October and measures in the Welfare Reform Bill are necessary and show that the Government are absolutely committed to reducing the level of fraud in the benefit system.

These initiatives focus on preventing fraud and error from entering the system in the first place, detecting and correcting mistakes when they do happen, delivering tough punishments for those who defraud the system, and deterring those who would try to abuse the system in the future.

Social Security Benefits: Young People

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the off-flow rate has been of 16 to 24-year-olds from benefits into work since January 2011. [85535]

Chris Grayling: About 90% of young people who made a new claim for jobseeker's allowance in January 2011 had left the count by October, the latest month for which data are currently available. These figures cover 18 to 24-year-olds as those aged under 18 are not

routinely eligible for JSA. Individuals are not required to tell Jobcentre Plus the reason they ended their claim and a significant minority of exits are to unknown destinations. This means that, although many of those whose destination is not known are likely to have taken up work, it is not possible to calculate an off-flow rate into work.

Tax Credits: Universal Credit

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the changes to tax credits announced in the Autumn Statement on his Department's target for the number of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults to be taken out of poverty through the universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [85611]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit will unify the current system of means-tested out of work benefits, tax credits and support for housing. As a result of the changes to tax credits announced in the autumn statement, it is estimated that *(a)* an additional 50,000 children will be lifted out of poverty through universal credit, over and above the number quoted in the Universal Credit Impact Assessment, and *(b)* no significant change to the number of adults lifted out of poverty.

Unemployment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the Office for Budget Responsibility's new unemployment forecasts on the ability of Work programme providers to deliver existing contracts. [85550]

Chris Grayling: An assessment will be made following discussions about the new unemployment forecasts between DWP officials and Work programme providers.

Work Capability Assessment: Mental Illness

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to publish the reports by the Mental Health and Fluctuating Conditions groups on the work capability assessment; and when any such publication will occur. [86347]

Chris Grayling: We currently have no plans to formally publish the reports submitted by Professor Harrington to us on the mental, intellectual and cognitive descriptors and the fluctuating conditions descriptors.

Professor Harrington's second independent review of the work capability assessment was published on 24 November. This contains a précis of the two reports' recommendations as well as an update on the current position regarding their consideration.

A copy of the mental, intellectual and cognitive descriptors report is available in the House Library. A copy of the fluctuating conditions descriptors report will be made available in the House Library once the Department has had a chance to consider it in detail and has provided feedback to Professor Harrington and those involved in the production of it.

Young People: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the Youth Contract in the Peterborough constituency; and if he will make a statement. [85337]

Chris Grayling: The Youth Contract will provide more intensive support for all 18 to 24-year-olds including additional adviser time and weekly signing requirements. It will make available extra work experience and sector-based work academy places, including an offer of a work experience place for every unemployed 18 to 24-year-old who wants one, before they enter the Work programme. Work experience is delivered through local mechanisms based on demand and need. It forms just part of a range of flexible measures which the Jobcentre Plus district manager can put in place to address the specific needs and requirements of unemployed young people in Peterborough.

A new wage incentive scheme, delivered through the Work Programme, will make it easier for employers to take on young people aged 18 to 24. We are talking to providers and employers about the best way of delivering this new scheme and will make further information available to employers and others over the coming weeks as the design detail progresses.

Extra funding will also be made available for the Department for Education to support the most vulnerable NEET 16 and 17-year-olds into learning, an apprenticeship or job with training.

Young People: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of funding for the Youth Contract will be allocated to applicants living in Scotland; and what proportion of such funding he expects to be spent on *(a)* work placements, *(b)* wage subsidies and *(c)* incentive payments. [86353]

Chris Grayling: The Youth Contract contains a number of elements including wage subsidies, extra support delivered through Jobcentre Plus, incentive payments for employers to take on apprentices and extra support for 16 to 17-year-olds. We are working on the detailed design decisions and the final distribution of resources will depend on future volumes of 18 to 24-year-olds claiming JSA. Therefore, the breakdown of spending for Scotland is not currently available. Where extra spending is earmarked for devolved issues, the Barnett formula will determine the allocation for Scotland.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85641]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) applies a risk based approach to planning its internal audit assignments. The annual

audit plan is developed through a combination of a review of the Department's high level risk registers and discussions with senior management and the audit committee. The audit plan is flexible to address the evolution of the risk environment and the emergence of new risks.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85061]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Between 1 June and 30 November 2011 the Department for International Development received 170 written questions for a named day. The number of written questions for a named day that were not answered within five working days, according to the month that the question was tabled, is as follows:

Month (2011)	*Named day questions answered after five working days*
June	0
July	1
August	0
September	0
October	12
November	4

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in meeting the commitment to draw a maximum of 10 per cent. of funding for climate change finance from existing funding from his Department. [86351]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government's four-yearly spending review set a budget of £2.9 billion for climate finance for the period 2011-12 to 2014-15, known as the International Climate Fund. UK international climate finance is Official Development Assistance (ODA) and is being met from within the rising aid budget. The share of UK ODA devoted to climate finance accounts for less than 10% in every year of this spending period.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* meetings, *(b)* discussions and *(c)* correspondence he has had with the (i) Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, (ii) Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and (iii) Prime Minister on formulating the UK's negotiating position for the Durban Climate Change Conference. [86352]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK negotiating position for the 17th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Durban was agreed by the European Affairs Committee, in which I actively participate.

I regularly discuss issues concerning UK policy on climate change with Cabinet colleagues, including the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Prime Minister.

Developing Countries: Population

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will consider the importance of population stabilisation for sustainable development in his preparations for the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. [85517]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK supports the focus of the two themes of Rio+20: (a) green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) institutional frameworks for sustainable development. DEFRA is the Whitehall lead on Rio+20. DFID is working with DEFRA and other Government Departments to develop the UK position for the conference. In doing so, a range of sectoral and cross-cutting issues are being considered including the empowerment of women and girls.

Developing Countries: Water

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to attend the Sanitation and Water for All high-level meeting on 20 April 2012; and if he will make a statement. [85527]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) strongly supports the work of the Sanitation and Water for All partnership to increase accountability of both developing countries and donors for delivering results on the ground.

It will be important to have a strong UK presence at the next meeting and I intend to be there.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to monitor the use of funds provided by his Department to ensure that people have access to clean water sanitation and other similar services. [85593]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is focusing more than ever before on the results and value for money achieved through all our funding; the independent Commission on Aid Impact has been set up to monitor this. By including access to clean water and sanitation as a high-level indicator in DFID's Business Plan, we will ensure that we monitor our progress very closely in this area, and remain accountable to the public for our results.

For more information on how DFID monitors its progress and results, please visit the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/How-we-measure-progress/

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will attend the high-level meeting of the Sanitation and Water for All Partnership in Washington on 20 April 2012; what steps his Department is taking to improve access to sanitation and water in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [86021]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) strongly supports the work of the Sanitation and Water for All partnership to increase accountability of both developing countries and donors for delivering results on the ground.

DFID recognise that it will be important to have a strong UK presence at the next high-level meeting in April 2012 and I intend to be there.

The UK Government have committed to a series of challenging targets concerning water and sanitation. These include making sure 15 million more people have access to clean drinking water, 25 million more people have access to improved sanitation facilities and 15 million more people are reached by hygiene promotion.

Kenya: Asylum

Pauline Latham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government are taking to support the Government of Kenya in ensuring that additional camp sites within Kenya are approved and equipped; and what steps the Government are taking to provide assistance to host communities around Dadaab camps. [85470]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I and other Ministers have regularly pressed the Kenyan Government to make sufficient camp space available for refugees in Kenya, including during my visit to Dadaab in July. The Kenyan Government have since opened news camps in Ifo and Kambioos. In July, I agreed a £6 million package to provide support to more than 130,000 refugees, including nutrition, health care, water, sanitation, tents and cooking equipment for refugees in existing and new camps. UK support focuses on refugees in the camps, where needs are greater than in the surrounding host communities. The UN and other donors are providing support to the host communities.

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the Government is providing to the Government of Kenya to ensure that it *(a)* restarts registration of those Somalis fleeing conflict and seeking refugee status in Kenya and *(b)* fulfils its other obligations under international refugee law. [85487]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: My Department does not directly fund the Kenyan Government's Department for Refugee Affairs (DRA) which is responsible for registration of refugees, but DRA does receive support through UNHCR (the UN refugee agency, which the UK does fund) and other donors. I am very concerned about the suspension of registration of new refugees. Registration is important for the protection of refugees as well as in Kenya's own security interests.

I have regularly pressed the Kenyan Government on the rights of refugees, including after my visit to the Dadaab refugee camp in July. When I last met Minister Saitoti, Kenyan Minister for Provincial Administration and Internal Security, on 21 November, I again acknowledged Kenya's generosity in hosting refugees, but also raised the importance of not forcibly repatriating refugees. The Prime Minister has also made the same points in a letter to President Kibaki. My officials are following up with the Kenyan Government on the need to restart registration.

Overseas Aid: Education

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has any programme to educate children on the contribution to overseas aid made by the UK. [84585]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In 2010 I commissioned an independent review of the Department for International Development's (DFID) work to increase public awareness of global poverty. I also closed a number of programmes designed to promote awareness of global poverty in the UK that failed to demonstrate real development impact and value for money. Following the review, I decided that DFID would not fund any new development awareness projects and that funds would be redirected to front line programmes in developing countries.

The coalition Government believe that every child should learn about the challenges of poverty and underdevelopment which face children their own age in other countries, and about the potential of trade, wealth creation and economic development to build a freer, more prosperous world. DFID's work over the last decade to integrate development issues into the school curriculum has been successful in achieving this. DFID will continue to fund development education work in schools, and this work is now being put on a strategic footing.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Females

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* advisers included on the Government's delegation to the Bonn conference will be women. [85277]

Alistair Burt: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 674-75W.

Bangladesh: Asylum

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the treatment of Rohingyan refugees in Bangladesh; and if he will make a statement. [86354]

Alistair Burt: The UK has raised concerns on this matter with the Government of Bangladesh bilaterally and with EU partners. The Secretary of State for International Development raised concerns about the

treatment of ethnic minorities with the President of Burma and senior officials during his visit to the country on 15-17 November.

Officials from our high commission in Dhaka have visited the camps for displaced Rohingyas. The Department for International Development provides core contributions to the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department and UN agencies that directly support the Rohingya community.

Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on UK accession to the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage; and if he will make a statement. [86052]

Mr Bellingham: The British Government have adopted the Annex of the Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage as best practice for marine archaeology but we do not believe that the case for ratification of the convention by the UK has been made. This position will continue to be kept under review.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85657]

Mr Lidington: The information is as follows:

(a) The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has published a Sustainable Procurement Strategy:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/procurement/Sus_Proc_Strategy

which details how procurement will deliver value for money in its contracting for goods and services while also delivering benefit in sustainable terms, in the categories of environmental, economic and social and across supply chains. The FCO has published an SME Action Plan:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/working-for-us/contracts-procurement/sme

which will support SMEs by implementing promotion of procurement opportunities and removing any barriers to the use of SMEs in the UK.

(b) FCO Services, a trading fund of the FCO, addresses social value in procurement through sustainability. This is illustrated in the procurement of zero emission electric vehicles and fuel efficient HGV trailer units for the European Lorry Fleet. FCO Services also works with its logistics supplier to monitor and manage carbon emissions. More broadly in respect of procurement of materials and services it applies standard pan government contract terms, which reflect sustainability and equal opportunities/anti-discrimination requirements.

Wilton Park uses the FCO Sustainable Procurement Strategy mentioned above and is also currently developing a strategy to offer contracts to SME's which will be based on the FCO's.

Departmental Secondment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86129]

Mr Bellingham: A small number of staff have been seconded to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from both industry and the third sector since May 2010. The majority of these loans have been ad hoc short term arrangements and we do not hold a central record of these informal secondments. A further seven staff from industry and the third sector have undertaken formal, longer term inward secondments to the FCO. We are however unable to provide more detail as this could identify individual staff, and potentially breach data protection principles.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85934]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office received 2,877 questions for ordinary written answer in this Session, tabled up to 31 October 2011. A total of 2,724 (94.7%) of these questions were answered within 10 sitting days; 126 (4.4%) within 11 to 20 sitting days; 23 (0.8%) within 21 to 30 sitting days; and 4 (0.1%) in more than 30 sitting days.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide this information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Egypt: Exports

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on any cases of internal repression in Egypt; if he will impose an embargo on the export of all equipment subject to the UK export licence regime to Egypt; and if he will make a statement. [85168]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has made clear UK concerns about incidents of unrest and violence in Egypt in recent months. In his statement of 23 November he said that he was deeply concerned by the unacceptable violence that had taken place around Tahrir Square and other parts of Egypt, and called on the Egyptian authorities to respect the right of peaceful protest and immediately to cease the use of violence against protestors.

We are aware of reports that UK manufactured tear gas has been used in Egypt. No licences for the export of tear gas to Egypt have been granted since 1999. Since that time UK export controls have been radically overhauled including through the passing of the Export Control Act 2002 and the adoption of the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. Under the consolidated criteria we will not issue licences for goods which will be used for internal repression or for aggravating existing tensions or conflicts. Export licence applications for Egypt, as for all countries, are kept under constant review and every licence is scrutinised in light of changing facts on the ground. We have no plans to impose an embargo on Egypt for all equipment subject to UK export controls.

Falkland Islands: Sovereignty

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Government of Argentina in response to its *(a)* recent reassertion of that country's claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and *(b)* interference with fishing vessels in the seas surrounding the Falkland Islands. [86386]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK Government have no doubt about their sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. There can be no negotiations on sovereignty unless or until the Falkland Islanders so wish. The fundamental principle and right of self determination, as set out in the United Nations Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, underlies this position. We have made this position clear both directly to the Argentine Government and at international forums.

The UK Government have repeatedly protested against Argentine Presidential Decree 256, which has purportedly been the basis for recent interference with fishing vessels in the vicinity of the River Plate basin. We have repeated this protest on several occasions bilaterally, publicly and in letters circulated at the United Nations General Assembly. We do not consider the decree to be compliant with international law, including the right of innocent passage through territorial seas under the United Nations convention on the law of the sea. There has been no interference with fishing vessels in Falkland Islands waters.

Fiji: Christianity

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of closures of Methodist churches in Fiji; and if he will raise the issue of religious freedom and freedom of speech with the Government of Fiji. [85465]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The British Government are deeply concerned by reports of restrictions on the rights of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and freedom of association being placed upon members of the Methodist Church in Fiji. The right to assemble peacefully is at the heart of a functioning democracy and helps to improve long-term social, political and economic stability.

On 12 October, I expressed my dismay to the Fijian high commissioner to London at these developments and noted that this latest action by the authorities in Fiji could only serve to increase their isolation from the international community. The UK Government will continue to raise our concerns with the interim government, including the need to lift the public emergency restrictions in early 2012. We will continue to work closely with international partners to return Fiji to democracy.

Iran: Weapons

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on shipments of arms and missiles by Iran to militant groups in Lebanon, Syria and the Gaza Strip. [85866]

Alistair Burt: We remain deeply concerned by Iran's support for militant groups in Lebanon, Syria and the Gaza Strip, including Hezbollah and Hamas. We have consistently stressed the negative impact this has on stability in the middle east and condemn it in all its forms.

We assess that since the 2006 conflict with Israel, Hezbollah has been rearmed to the extent that its capabilities exceed those in 2006. We assess that Iran is the most significant provider of weapons, training and funding to Hezbollah.

We judge that Hamas has rebuilt at least some of the capabilities it lost in the 2008-09 Gaza conflict. Since then, Hamas may have acquired from Iran both a number of longer range rockets with the potential to reach Tel Aviv and some advanced anti-tank guided weapons. We assess that Iran is a significant provider of weapons and funds to the group.

Iran also provides arms and funding to other rejectionist groups in the region, such as Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

We continue to monitor Iranian support to these groups closely. We will continue to push for full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions, which call for the disarmament of these armed groups and prohibit weapons transfers, and support the UN sanctions committees pursuing and investigating sanctions violations.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Israeli Government about the expansion of Israeli settlements. [85528]

Alistair Burt: We regularly make clear that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories are wrong, illegal under international law and deeply counter-productive to efforts to bring a lasting peace to the middle east conflict.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs I and our ambassador in Tel Aviv have all raised the issue of settlements with the Israeli authorities. The Foreign Secretary most recently condemned settlement activity publicly in his statements of 2, 9 and 28 November.

Oil: Canada

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Canadian counterpart on the environmental consequences of developing the Alberta tar sands. [85768]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not discussed the development of the Alberta oil sands with his Canadian counterpart.

We regularly raise our concerns over the environmental impact of oil sands extraction with the Canadian authorities, most recently in discussion between the Minister of State, my noble Friend Lord Howell of Guildford, and the Canadian high commissioner on 20 September.

The Prime Minister discussed the European fuel quality directive in relation to Canadian oil sands with the Canadian Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, during his visit to Ottawa in September.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* his international counterparts and *(b)* representatives of international organisations about the situation in Gaza. [85530]

Alistair Burt: We are currently working closely with the Quartet, the UN and EU partners to raise more strongly the situation of Gaza with the Israeli authorities. We continue to call on Israel to ease restrictions on access including access to humanitarian and medical supplies.

Our ambassador in Tel Aviv raises these concerns regularly with Israeli authorities. It was also formally raised by the UK at the annual Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting of donors in New York on 18 September both in the plenary session and in bilateral meetings with the Israeli delegation in the margins of the main event.

As the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs reiterated to the House on 28 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 691:

"We look to Israel to permit the further opening of Gaza so that all Palestinian people can see a pathway to a better future, living side by side with a secure Israel. It is vital that Israel takes that action."

Palestinians: Prisoners

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* his international counterparts and *(b)* representatives of international organisations about the treatment of Palestinian prisoners by the Israeli authorities. [85529]

Alistair Burt: We regularly discuss the issue of treatment of Palestinian prisoners by the Israeli authorities with our international partners, including our EU counterparts. We also regularly meet international organisations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross.

I discussed this matter during my visit in June with the Minister of Justice, indicating the UK's concerns about both the detention and the treatment of Palestinian prisoners, including children. Our ambassador in Tel Aviv raised the issue on 26 October 2011 during his visit to the Israel Prison Service complex, at the invitation of the Public Security Minister. He raised concerns over visitation rights and the treatment of minors, particularly cuffing and shackling. In his discussions with the Public Security Minister, the ambassador stressed the importance the UK placed on Israel fulfilling its obligations under international law. On 28 November 2011, I stated to the House that the UK Government view the shackling of children in detention as wrong.

The Government of Israel have reaffirmed to us their commitment to treating prisoners in line with international human rights standards. The UK will continue to monitor the situation with regard to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons and encourage the Government of Israel to meet their stated commitments.

Sarath Fonseka

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Sri Lanka on the treatment of Sarath Fonseka. [85189]

Alistair Burt: On 18 November 2011, Sarath Fonseka, former head of the Sri Lankan army and rival of President Rajapaksa, was found guilty of spreading rumours likely to cause public alarm and disorder. The High Court sentenced Fonseka to three years in prison, which he will serve in addition to the 30-month sentence handed down in September last year after he was found guilty of misconduct by a military tribunal.

We have consistently urged the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure its judicial process meets international standards.

Shaker Aamer

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the oral answer of 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 172, on Shaker Aamer, when his case was last raised at ministerial level; and what progress has been made on returning Shaker Aamer to the UK. [85181]

Alistair Burt: Shaker Aamer's case was raised formally most recently at ministerial level by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, during President Obama's state visit to the UK in May this year. The Government remain committed to securing Mr Aamer's release and return to the UK and, as previously stated, we will continue to raise his case with the United States Government at both official and ministerial levels. His release remains a decision for the United States Government to make, but our own determination and our efforts to return Mr Aamer to the United Kingdom will certainly continue.

Somalia: International Assistance

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to encourage parties in Somalia, including the Kenyan armed forces, to facilitate humanitarian access in South Somalia. [85151]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have been asked to reply.

I have regularly highlighted the importance of unhindered humanitarian access and actively pressed donors to step up their funding support to humanitarian organisations to meet priority needs wherever they are.

The Prime Minister has also written to President Kibaki on 10 November stating that the Kenyan incursion into Somalia must comply with international law and should not impede humanitarian operations. Officials have followed up directly with the Kenyan security forces. UK officials have also raised concerns over humanitarian access in Mogadishu with the Somali Government and African Union Mission in Somalia. The ability of the UK to influence other non-state actors inside Somalia is more limited, but we continue to explore ways of indirectly doing so.

South Africa: Freedom of Information

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the effect on the freedom of the media in the Republic of South Africa of the Protection of State Information Bill. [85624]

Mr Bellingham: Britain is aware of strong concerns that have been raised by media and other rights groups that the Protection of State Information Bill could limit media freedom in South Africa. Our diplomatic missions in Pretoria and Cape Town will continue to monitor the Bill closely through the remaining stages of the parliamentary process.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the progress of reconciliation in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [85190]

Alistair Burt: On 20 November, the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission sent their report to the Sri Lankan President. Many hope this report will mark a significant milestone in Sri Lanka's recovery from conflict. I have called on the Government of Sri Lanka to seize this opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to national reconciliation and accountability. I look forward to the Government of Sri Lanka setting out the steps they will take in response to the report.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the progress of transitional justice in Sri Lanka since 2009. [85196]

Alistair Burt: The UK has consistently called for an independent, thorough and credible investigation into allegations of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law by both sides in the military conflict.

The Sri Lankan Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) presented their report to the Sri Lankan President on 20 November. We look forward to the Sri Lankan Government publishing the report in full and setting out the steps they will take in response.

We believe that an inclusive political solution that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict is the best way to achieve lasting and equitable peace in Sri Lanka.

Sudan: Human Rights

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will review his Department's promotion of trade with Sudan in the light of human rights abuses in that country. [86338]

Mr Bellingham: There are no international restrictions on trade with Sudan, other than an arms embargo imposed by the UN. At present we do not actively promote trade with Sudan, although assistance is provided by UK Trade & Investment in response to requests from British companies. We have made very clear to the Government of Sudan that the current conflicts and human rights abuses are an obstacle to any increase in our trade relationship, and it is their responsibility to resolve those conflicts peacefully.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Biometrics: Entry Clearances

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when *(a)* she and *(b)* the Immigration Minister were first informed that their pilot programme was being used to stop biometric checks. [79849]

Damian Green: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 44-61.

Dangerous Dogs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dogs in England and Wales were placed on the register of exempt dogs under section 4(a) and (b) procedures under the Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997 in 2010. [78712]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

So far this year, we have placed 421 dogs on the Index of Exempted Dogs through either the 4A or 4B procedures. 42 of these were under the 4A procedure and 290 under the 4B procedure. In 89 cases it has not been possible to identify under which procedure the dogs have been placed on the index because this has not been stated on the contingent destruction order issued by the court.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted under section *(a)* 1(3), *(b)* 3(1) and *(c)* 3(3) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each year since 2007. [78752]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

I will arrange for a table showing the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, sections 1(3), 3(1) and 3(3), in England and Wales, from 2007 to 2010 (latest available) to be placed in the Library of the House.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Departmental Manpower

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Force staff were working on *(a)* customs and *(b)* immigration checks at Heathrow in each week between 1 July and 1 November 2011. [79888]

Damian Green: The total number of Border Force officers working at Heathrow from 1 July to 1 November 2011 is set out as follows. This table shows the number of officers deployed on front line checks at Heathrow throughout the period.

	Number
July	957
August	953
September	952
October	944

Deportation: Offenders

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her policy to remove foreign national prisoners on completion of their sentence was introduced. [79772]

Damian Green: Government policy is to deport foreign nationals where their presence in the United Kingdom is not conducive to the public good. The power to deport a person on the grounds that their presence in the UK is not conducive to the public good is provided by S3(5) of the Immigration Act 1971. S3(6)of the Immigration Act 1971 gave the courts the power to recommend the deportation of foreign national prisoners. These powers came into force on 1 January 1973.

The policy to remove foreign nationals who are liable to deportation dates from then. Although it has not been explicitly stated that we remove foreign national prisoners on completion of their sentence, as a matter of practice we aim to remove foreign national offenders at the earliest opportunity. Under the terms of the Early Removal Scheme, which was introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003, foreign national prisoners serving fixed term sentences can be removed from prison and the country up to a maximum of 270 days before the half-way point of sentence. In 2010-11 43% of removals of foreign national offenders (FNOs) who met the deportation criteria took place during the early removal period.

More generally we are improving performance by starting earlier, maximising Facilitated Returns Scheme, working with foreign governments, improving compliance and embedding staff in prisons ensuring that contact is made with FNOs where staff are embedded, within five days of their arrival.

Fraud: Shares

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that the Serious Fraud Office pursues investigations into boiler room fraud. [86490]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) is headed by the Director who acts under the superintendence of the Attorney-General. The SFO investigates and prosecutes the most serious and complex economic crime.

Where an alleged boiler room fraud that comes to the attention of the SFO meets the published selection criteria the SFO will consider the allegations. The selection criteria can be found on the SFO website at:

http://www.sfo.gov.uk/victims/individual-victims/can-i-report-a-fraud-or-corruption-directly-to-the-sfo.aspx

If an alleged boiler room fraud does not meet the SFO criteria it will be referred to another law enforcement organisation or regulator for investigation when appropriate.

Since October 2011 the SFO has successfully prosecuted 10 individuals involved in boiler room fraud.

Immigration

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish *(a)* the operational advice note and *(b)* details of the ministerial decision implementing the trial of risk-based processes at the border. [79887]

Damian Green: We are conducting an investigation into all the relaxation of border controls. It would be inappropriate to publish this information or comment further at this stage.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* EU nationals and *(b)* non-EU nationals passed through border controls in the UK between 28 July and 4 November 2011. [79889]

Damian Green: Passenger arrivals figures for the third quarter of 2011 (July to September) are not yet available. The latest published data for the first quarter of 2011 along with figures for 2010 showing recent levels of EEA and non-EEA nationals arriving in the United Kingdom are given in the table. These figures are numbers of journeys and include passengers in transit who do not pass through immigration controls.

Passenger arrivals to the United Kingdom including EEA and Swiss nationals, January 2010 to March 2011

Passengers admitted	*Q1 2010*	*Q2 2010*	*Q3 2010*	*Q4 2010*	*Q1 2011*
Total (million)	19.7	26.2	33.3	22.3	20.2

Passenger arrivals to the United Kingdom including EEA and Swiss nationals, January 2010 to March 2011

Passengers admitted	*Q1 2010*	*Q2 2010*	*Q3 2010*	*Q4 2010*	*Q1 2011*
Non-EEA nationals	2.4	3.3	4.0	2.7	2.4
British citizens	11.2	15.9	21.0	12.8	11.2
Other EEA and Swiss nationals	6.0	7.1	8.3	6.7	6.5

Notes:
1. Provisional figures.
2. Includes airside transfer/transit passengers of all nationalities who did not pass through immigration control.

Source:
Home Office, Migration Statistics.
Published in table ad.01.q of 'Immigration Statistics April to June 2011'.

Information relating to the second quarter (April to June) of 2011 will be published on 24 November 2011 in the Home Office Science publication, 'Immigration Statistics July to September 2011' and the third quarter will be published on 23 February 2012. These data will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 13 December 2011

WALES

Business Advisory Group

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what date her Business Advisory Group last met; and who attended the meeting. [86273]

Mrs Gillan: The Business Advisory Group meets on a quarterly basis. The last meeting was on 24 October 2011. The attendees of the meeting were:

Uday Chaturvedi, TATA Steel
Paul Gorin, Smart Solutions
Rob Lewis, PricewaterhouseCoopers
Colin OrrBurns, Dragon LNG
David Rosser, CBI
Graham Hillier, Toyota
Professor George Boyne, Cardiff University
Nick Main, GE Healthcare
David Williams, Chairman of Llandudno Hospitality Association
Steve Thomas, Airbus
Professor Stuart Cole, University of Glamorgan

Departmental Travel Costs

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many times *(a)* she, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in her Department have travelled first class on trains since May 2010. [86274]

Mr David Jones: On taking office, the Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), confirmed that there would no longer be any first class travel paid for by the Wales Office. All tickets bought from May 2010 onwards for myself, the Secretary of State and officials have been for standard rail travel, which has resulted in a saving of £86,824 when compared to the previous year.

The Secretary of State and three officials did travel first class—at no cost to the Wales Office—as guests of First Great Western when they attempted to set a new record for the fastest journey between Cardiff and London, and on six occasions the Secretary of State and two officials have been upgraded, again at no cost to the Wales Office for operational reasons.

Official Visits

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many times she has visited *(a)* Cardiff, *(b)* Swansea and *(c)* Wrexham since May 2010. [85606]

Mr David Jones: Ministers from the Wales Office have visited Cardiff 86 times, Swansea four times and Wrexham 10 times.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85921]

Mr David Jones: This information is not available in the form requested.

From the start of the 2010-12 session to 30 November 2011, the Wales Office answered 433 (90%) of ordinary written parliamentary questions on time.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide this information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Official Hospitality

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the average cost per night has been of hotel rooms booked by her Department for official business since May 2010. [86276]

Mr David Jones: The average cost per night for hotel rooms booked by the Wales Office since May 2010 is £98. The Wales Office is based in London and Cardiff and staff need to travel between the offices regularly in the course of their duties.

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on hotel bills since May 2010. [86277]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has spent £40,861 on hotel bills since May 2010, a saving of over £18,000 on the previous 18-month period. The Wales Office is based in London and Cardiff and staff need to travel between the offices regularly in the course of their duties.

Hotel bookings are made through a central contract procured by the Ministry of Justice, and this ensures that all accommodation booked is within the limits set by the Department.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Assisted Areas

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the possible withdrawal of automatic assisted area status from Northern Ireland. [86293]

Mr Paterson: I have engaged in correspondence with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), on this matter. The possible removal of automatic

assisted area status from Northern Ireland was one of the options considered in the Government's consultation on changes to the Industrial Development Act 1982 which closed on 2 November. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is on target to publish the Government's response within three months of the close of the consultation.

Ballymurphy: Deaths

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of progress on the investigation into the deaths which occurred in the Ballymurphy area of Belfast in 1971. [86333]

Mr Paterson: I understand that the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) is currently investigating the deaths which occurred in Ballymurphy in 1971. In addition, the Attorney General for Northern Ireland recently confirmed that inquests into the deaths would be reopened. The timings and progress of these investigations and inquests are a matter for the HET and the Coroner's Service for Northern Ireland respectively.

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards. [85834]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office, as a small Government Department, has limited catering facilities. At present, there are no plans to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards in either the Department or the public bodies for which I am responsible.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure the country of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85835]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office, as a small Government Department, has limited requirements for food and catering services. At present, there are no plans for the country of origin of foods to be labelled on menus and display boards in either the Department or the public bodies for which I am responsible.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85922]

Mr Paterson: This information is not available in the form requested.

From the start of the 2010-12 Session to 30 November 2011, the Northern Ireland Office answered 323 (86%) of ordinary written parliamentary questions on time.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide this information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Rescue Services

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the implications for Northern Ireland of the planned changes to the search and rescue helicopter service. [86054]

Mr Paterson: I refer the hon. Lady to the written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), on 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 52WS. The new arrangements will see an end of military involvement in a dedicated helicopter search and rescue service with search and rescue operations being provided by contracted civilian crews. The winning bidder will be expected to operate from 10 locations around the UK, and provide at least the same level of service as at present.

Under the new arrangements, Northern Ireland will be covered by helicopters based on the UK mainland and Scottish Islands, as at present. Incidents will continue to be responded to within the agreed national response requirements.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: EU Law

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 638W, on animal experiments: EU law, which groups will be asked for input at appropriate points on the draft legislation to transpose EU Directive 2010/63/EU. [85884]

Lynne Featherstone: We will seek input as necessary from the bioscience sector, animal welfare and protection groups, funding bodies, training accreditors and licensees and practitioners under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Regular contact has been maintained with all of these groups during the process of negotiating and subsequently transposing European Directive 2010/63/EU.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 638W, on animal experiments: EU Law, when draft legislation to transpose EU Directive 2010/63/EU will be available for consultation. [85885]

Lynne Featherstone: Work on the preparation of draft legislation to transpose European Directive 2010/63/EU has begun. We will seek input from individuals and groups with an interest at appropriate points in the detailed drafting process.

I am not yet in a position to say when the final draft legislation will be published.

Asylum

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many of the asylum legacy cases resolved since May 2010 an individual was *(a)* granted asylum and *(b)* deported. [85031]

Damian Green: In answering this question, I have taken deportation to mean removal. Since May 2010, it is not a national statistic, and as such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change, 280 individuals have been granted asylum and 400 have been removed.

Source:

Local management information provided by UKBA, North West Region Planning and MI team.

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum legacy cases are outstanding; and how many such cases have been concluded in the last 12 months. [85032]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency committed to review all older unresolved cases by summer 2011; this was achieved by March 2011. A total of 500,500 cases were reviewed as part of the programme.

As Jonathan Sedgwick, then acting chief executive of the UK Border Agency reported to the Home Affairs Committee on 12 September, 479,000 of the 500,500 cases in the legacy programme have been fully concluded.

During the period 1 December 2010 to 12 September 2011, 41,950 cases reached conclusion, 15,499 asylum legacy cases remain outstanding.

Source: Local Management information provided by UKBA, North West Region Planning and MI team. It is not a national statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Bramshill Police College

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2011, *Official Report,* column 795W, on Bramshill police college, when she expects the review of the Bramshill estate commissioned from the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) to report; and what consultation *(a)* she and *(b)* the NPIA will undertake with police (i) forces and (ii) authorities on the future of the estate. [84576]

Nick Herbert: The review of the Bramshill estate is due to report to the NPIA in spring 2012. It will be considered by the NPIA Board which includes representatives of the Home Office, police authorities and chief police officers. The review involves consultation with all police forces and authorities and, specifically, with the local chief constables and police authority chief executives in Thames Valley, Surrey and Hampshire.

Civil Disorder

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued to police authorities on the Riot (Damages) Act 1886; and what *(a)* meetings have been held and *(b)* other communication undertaken between officials of her Department and police authorities concerning that Act since August 2011. [84428]

Nick Herbert: Since August 2011, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has written to all Chairs of Police Authorities with guidance on the Home Office's response to the riots, setting out amendments to the regulations under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 and details of the Home Office bureau which was set up to receive and assess claims from those with no insurance. I have also held meetings with the Chairs of affected police authorities, representatives of the Association of Police Authorities (APA) and of the insurance industry, while Home Office officials have kept in regular contact with affected police authorities through the APA.

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether food and catering services in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards. [85828]

Damian Green: The Home Office and public bodies for which it is responsible do not directly contract for food supplies but procure catering services through wider facilities management or operating service contracts. At our headquarters building, allergen and healthy choice labelling has been implemented and there are plans to increase this to include calorific values. We are also working with our contracted suppliers who deliver catering services to the UKBA, National Policing Improvement Agency and Identity and Passport Service estate to encourage them to introduce similar labelling arrangements as part of their plans for 2012.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible are taking to ensure the country of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85829]

Damian Green: The Home Office and public bodies for which it is responsible do not directly contract for food supplies but procure catering services through wider facilities management or operating service contracts. Country of food origin information is not routinely made available to customers but in some staff restaurants it does appear on published menus on occasions or is available on request.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many posts have been lost in the UK Border Agency in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [80146]

Damian Green: The number of full-time equivalent posts reduced in the UK Border Agency in the last 12 months for which figures are available (2010-11), is -1,900 as it appears in rounded form in our annual report, which can be found here:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/annual-reports-accounts

This is an actual reduction in full-time equivalent staff from 24,467 (31 March 2010) to 22,580 (31 March 2011) a reduction of -1,887.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham in the latest financial year for which figures are available. [85446]

Damian Green: The Department does not hold information on how much was spent in each location. To obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if she will make a statement. [85659]

Damian Green: The Home Department has in place a Commercial Policies and Procedures manual that is applicable to the Home Office and its Agencies. The manual includes guidance on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in line with Government procurement policy.

In support, the Department's Service Terms and Conditions reflect CSR requirements and these are kept under review. The Home Office also invites its top suppliers to complete an accredited self-assessment tool on their CSR practices which is used to monitor compliance with our policies. The tool enables collaborative working with suppliers to drive out improved performance in the CSR arena.

Departmental Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which her Department is responsible; and if she will make a statement. [85706]

Damian Green: Non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) are operationally independent of the Home Office and have responsibility to own and actively manage their own risks. The Executive NDPBs which the Home Office is responsible for own and maintain a variety of registers that cover risks at a strategic and directorate level as well as registers for programmes and projects as required.

Deportation: Appeals

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals convicted in UK courts have contested deportation orders in each of the last five years; and how many such appeals have been successful and the appellant allowed to remain in the UK. [85030]

Damian Green: Figures for the last five years are not available. However, between 2008 and the end of September 2011, 5,657 appeals have been lodged by foreign national offenders contesting deportation orders. Of those, 1,333 appeals were successful. A breakdown is detailed in the following table.

	2008	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*Total*
Appeals lodged	1,798	1,349	1,486	1,024	5,657
Appeals allowed	342	346	473	172	1,333

Drug Seizures

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much heroin and cocaine was seized by UK Border Agency staff in the airports included in her summer 2011 pilot on immigration entry during the period of the pilot; and how much was seized in the corresponding period of 2010. [82059]

Damian Green: The latest drug-seizure statistics that have been produced in accordance with the Home Office's Statement of Compliance are contained within the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, 'Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2010/11' (accessed via the following link), published on 10 November 2011. These contain information for the full-year and are not broken down into individual months. The annual seizures for 2010-11 amounted to 420 kg of heroin, 1,519 kg of cocaine and 14 kg of crack-cocaine.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/hosb1711/hosb1711?view=Binary

Firearms

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from *(a)* the Metropolitan police and *(b)* any other external organisation on a review of her Department's definition of a gun crime; and if she will make a statement. [83848]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has not received representations from the Metropolitan police or any other external organisation on the Department's definition of gun crime.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to update the guidance to police on the definition of a gun crime; and whether she has asked her Department to investigate the case for doing so. [83849]

Nick Herbert: There are no plans to revise or update the guidance to police on the definition of gun crime.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has met ministerial colleagues to discuss the case for updating the definition of gun crime to include acts of criminal damage including firearms. [83862]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has not met ministerial colleagues to discuss the case for updating the definition of gun crime.

Firearms: Licensing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many section five firearms licences are held by UK citizens. [79943]

Nick Herbert: Information on nationality is not collected as part of the process of applying for a section five firearms licence.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to improve her Department's capacity to identify illegal immigrants and return them to their country of origin. [85752]

Damian Green: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 206W.

Immigrants: Detainees

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the detention data tables Immigration Statistics April-June 2011 table dt.07.q, what the total length of stay in the UK has been of each of the 74 persons who have been detained for more than 24 months. [82102]

Damian Green: The following table sets out the total length of stay in the UK of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24 months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April to June 2011.

Length of time (in years) in the UK based on first application raised	*Number of individuals*
3	7
4	7
5	13
6	5
7	6
8	10
9	7
10	4
11	5
12	3
13	1
14	1
15	1
17	2
18	1
20	1

The following table sets out the reasons why the 74 individuals detained for more than 24 months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April to June 2011, had not been removed from the UK. As the table shows, five of the individuals have now been removed from the UK. This information is taken from Internal Management Information and is subject to change.

Barriers to removal	*Number of individuals*
Travel Document	39
Appeals	6
Children issues	1
Country Situation	1
Nationality not confirmed	1
Judicial Review	15
Awaiting Removal: Multiple Barriers	4
Rule 39*	2
Removed	5

Of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24 months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April to June 2011, 53 lodged an appeal against their deportation. In addition to this:

29 individuals submitted a Judicial Review (JR) against unlawful detention.

five submitted a JR on HR grounds.

five submitted a JR against unlawful detention and on HR grounds.

To determine in which court those of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24 months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April to June 2011, have lodged an appeal against detention or removal would require the examination of individual case files which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether a report on the pilot scheme for border controls was sent to a Minister in her Department; [80594]

(2) how the pilot scheme for border controls in July 2011 was monitored; and to whom data obtained during the monitoring were sent. [80595]

Damian Green: I refer the hon. Member to the evidence provided by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 8 November.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she has held discussions with the Children's Commissioner for Scotland on the border access checks pilots in summer 2011; and whether those communications were *(a)* written and *(b)* oral. [80793]

Damian Green: Home Office Ministers held no discussions with the Children's Commissioner for Scotland on the level two risk-based border checks and pilot.

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress the UK Border Agency has made in clearing the backlog of historic immigration cases over five years old. [80939]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency committed to review all older unresolved cases by summer 2011, this was achieved by March 2011. A total of 500,500 cases were reviewed as part of the programme.

As Jonathan Sedgwick, then acting chief executive of the UK Border Agency, reported to the Home Affairs Committee on 12 September, 479,000 of the 500,500 cases in the legacy programme have been fully concluded. The remaining cases are being actively managed to conclusion, this will involve removing barriers such as impending prosecutions or obtaining travel documents to facilitate removal.

Immigration Controls

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people placed on a watchlist *(a)* entered and *(b)* were prevented from entering the UK between July and November 2011. [81006]

Damian Green: We do not disclose either the specific data held on the watchlist, the source of the data, or how they are used, as to do so would not be in the interests of border and national security.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions level 2 border checks were used in the port of Hull between July and November 2011. [81090]

Damian Green: Risk-based checks under the level 2 pilot were not used in the port of Hull.

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish all correspondence between her Department and *(a)* airport operators and *(b)* airline companies concerning border checks in the last 12 months. [81165]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has ordered an investigation into the relaxation of border controls. It would be inappropriate to release this information at this stage.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings she has had with Government agencies on the relaxation of border controls in the last 12 months. [81347]

Damian Green: We are conducting an investigation into all the relaxation of border controls. It would be inappropriate to publish this information or comment further at this stage.

Immigration: Port of Hull

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people entered the UK through the Port of Hull between July and November 2011. [81077]

Damian Green: Passenger arrivals figures for the third quarter of 2011 (July to September) are not yet available. A subset of the latest published data for the first quarter of 2011 along with figures for 2010 showing recent levels of passenger arrivals at Hull are given in the table. These figures are numbers of journeys and include passengers in transit who do not pass through immigration controls.

Passenger arrivals to the United Kingdom at Hull including EEA and Swiss nationals, January 2010 to March 2011

Total passengers admitted	*Q1 2010*	*Q2 2010*	*Q3 2010*	*Q4 2010*	*Q1 2011*
Total	91,400	125,000	135,000	120,000	91,900

Notes:
1. Includes airside transfer/transit passengers of all nationalities who did not pass through immigration control.
2. Numbers are rounded to three significant figures.

Source:
Home Office, Migration Statistics
A subset of data in table ad.01q of 'Immigration Statistics April to June 2011'. Provisional figures.

Total passenger arrivals figures relating to the second quarter (April to June) of 2011 will be published on 24 November 2011 in the Home Office Science publication, 'Immigration Statistics July to September 2011' and the third quarter will be published on 23 February 2012. These data will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/

Metal Theft

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 in deterring metal theft. [85735]

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 in deterring metal theft. [85738]

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to tackle metal theft. [85739]

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to tackle metal theft. [85740]

James Brokenshire: The Government recognise the growing problem of metal theft and are taking urgent steps to address it. The Home Office is discussing with other Government Departments what legislative changes are necessary to assist enforcement agencies and deter offenders, including a new licence regime for scrap metal dealers and prohibiting cash payments. We are also working with the Association of Chief Police Officers to establish a dedicated metal theft taskforce.

Police: Accountability

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether police and crime commissioners will be designated as scheduled bodies for the purposes of membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. [85552]

Nick Herbert: It is the Government's intention to use the provision made within the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to transfer the assets and liabilities of Police Authorities to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) when they assume office on 22 November 2012. In addition, steps are being taken to add PCCs to part 1 of schedule 2 of the Local Government Pension Scheme

(Administration) Regulations 2008 (as amended), which means a PCC will be a scheduled body for Local Government Pension Scheme purposes.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to consult police staff and their representative organisations on the transfer of police staff from police authorities to police and crime commissioners. [85671]

Nick Herbert: The Government have indicated that they expect the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector to apply to the transfer of staff from police authorities to Police and Crime Commissioners under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Consequently, staff should not see any adverse impact on their current terms of employment as a result of the transfer. Were there to be any changes to staff terms, these would have to be negotiated at a local level as this falls outside the remit of the Secretary of State for the Home Department. To help facilitate a consistent approach, the Home Office has established a staff transition working group which brings together representatives from the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of Police Authorities, the Association of Police Authority Chief Executives and the trade union side of the police staff council.

Police: Firearms

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness and efficiency of the issuing of firearm licences to the public by police authorities; and what guidance she has issued to police forces on the procedure to be followed when issuing firearm licences to the public. [85365]

Nick Herbert: Under the Firearms Act 1968 responsibility for granting and renewing firearm and shotgun certificates lies with the chief officer of police for the area in which the applicant lives. Guidance issued to the police in 2002 was intended to assist consistency of practice between police forces and makes it clear that in operating the licensing system forces should aim to provide cost-effective systems which ensure the speedy and efficient processing of applications and which take into account good practice and the need to provide best value. The guidance is currently being reviewed and will then be republished.

Police: Freedom of Information

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* vexatious and *(b)* repeated requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 were received by each police force in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011; and whether she has made an estimate of the cost to the public purse of dealing with such requests. [85874]

Damian Green: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Police: Manpower

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Cabinet Office guidelines on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector: Statement of Practice will apply to the transfer of police staff from police authorities to police and crime commissioners. [85387]

Nick Herbert: The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act provides for the abolition of police authorities and the creation of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). Under the Act, staff transfers can properly be regarded as an administrative reorganisation of public functions and authorities. As such, we expect the principles set out in the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector to be applied.

Police: Pensions

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether she proposes that HM Treasury's guidance entitled A Fair Deal for Staff Pensions will apply to the transfer of police staff from police authorities to police and crime commissioners; [85385]

(2) whether the Cabinet Office guidelines on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector: Statement of Practice and HM Treasury's guidance entitled A Fair Deal for Staff Pensions will be incorporated into the statutory transfer order which will transfer responsibility for police staff from police authorities to police and crime commissioners. [85386]

Nick Herbert: The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act provides for the abolition of police authorities and the creation of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). Steps are being taken to permit a PCC to become the new employer in the Local Government Pension Scheme so that there will be pension continuity for former non-uniformed police authority staff. Consequently, HM Treasury's Fair Deal requirements would be fully complied with as the member would have no detriment as far as pension provision would be concerned. Furthermore, under the Act, staff transfers can properly be regarded as an administrative reorganisation of public functions and authorities. As such, we expect the principles set out in the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector to be applied.

Police: Training

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish her response to the consultation on the review of police leadership and training. [80144]

Nick Herbert: We will respond in due course.

Repatriation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people who have applied and been refused the right to remain within the UK who have left the jurisdiction voluntarily in each of the last five years. [85209]

Damian Green: The number of individuals who have applied and been refused the right to remain within the UK, who have subsequently left voluntarily in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

	Voluntary departures (number)
2007	2,525
2008	2,500
2009	6,019
2010	9,642
2011	[1]5,096
Total	25,782

[1] Figures for 2011 are from January to September 2011.

Notes:

1. Figures include removals via the Assisted Voluntary Return programme, notified voluntary departures, those identified via data matching and those identified at embarkation.
2. Figures were produced on 2 December 2011.
3. Figures are based on individuals' removal date, not their application or refusal date.
4. All figures quoted are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much illegal tobacco was seized in each of the last five years. [85626]

Damian Green: HM Revenue and Customs holds the policy on tackling tobacco smuggling, although HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency jointly deliver the operational enforcement of the strategy. A refreshed strategy for HM Revenue and Customs and the UK Border Agency, "Tackling Tobacco Smuggling—building on our success", was published in April 2011. This document gives details of cigarettes and tobacco seized and can be viewed via the following link.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/tackling-tobacco.htm

In the last five years, the total tobacco seized by both HMRC and UKBA is detailed in the following table.

	Tobacco seized (tonnes)
2010-11	389
2009-10	406
2008-09	258
2007-08	194
2006-07	228

UK Border Agency

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* job title, *(b)* pay band and *(c)* period of training is for each member of staff of the UK Border Force who has any involvement in the checking of passports and visas. [80423]

Damian Green: Border force officers, who are equivalent to the executive officer grade pay band, generally conduct passport and visa checks on arriving passengers.

Nationwide, border force officers are supervised by higher border force officers (equivalent to higher executive officer grade/pay band) and supported by assistant border force officers (equivalent to administrative officer grade/pay band).

Border force officers receive induction training to perform the full range of immigration functions. Officers who have been trained to carry out customs activities are provided with further training, to enable them to conduct some immigration functions.

In the event of a critical incident, volunteer officers who have attended an additional training course, complemented by mentoring and online learning, may be deployed to check UK and other European Economic Area travel documents.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff were stationed in *(a)* Hull, *(b)* Grimsby and *(c)* Immingham in each year between 2000 and 2010. [81091]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency was established in 2008, therefore, we do not have any staffing figures prior to this. Staffing figures for the component parts of the UK Border Agency, the former Borders and Immigration Agency and the customs functions of HM Revenue and Customs, were maintained separately until they were merged on Home Office systems in April 2010. Therefore, the only accurate staffing figures we can provide are from April 2010, as follows. There were: 140 staff stationed in *(a)* Hull; no staff stationed in *(b)* Grimsby; and 71 staff based in *(c)* Immingham.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff are stationed in *(a)* Hull, *(b)* Immingham and *(c)* Grimsby. [81092]

Damian Green: There are 133 staff UK Border Agency stationed at *(a)* Hull, no staff stationed at *(b)* Grimsby and 73 staff stationed at *(c)* Immingham.

Security Vetting

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to improve the operation of the criminal record status checks regime. [85729]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government have brought forward new provisions in the Protection of Freedoms Bill to allow an employer, with an applicant's consent, to check online whether a criminal record certificate contains all recent information.

This addresses a key recommendation from Mrs Sunita Mason's Review of the Criminal Records Regime and is a significant enhancement to the service provided by the Criminal Record Bureau, which will greatly assist the portability of certificates and reduce repeat applications.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

British Waterways: Pay

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average percentage change in basic salary was for *(a)* directors, *(b)* the lowest paid member of staff and *(c)* the median salaried member of staff at British Waterways in the latest period for which figures are available. [86170]

Richard Benyon: In May 2011, the British Waterways annual pay review resulted in the following changes to basic salary over 2010-11:

(a) for directors: 0%;

(b) for those earning £21,000 and below: £250 consolidated into salary; and

(c) median salaried staff (i.e. those other than at *(a)* or *(b)*): 0%.

Food Labelling

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken on the labelling of cheese to inform people of the risks to health associated with unpasteurised cheeses. [85956]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

We are advised by the Food Standards Agency, which has responsibility for food safety and hygiene matters, that Regulation (EC) 853/2004 which lays down hygiene rules on foods of animal origin, requires that products made with raw milk must be clearly labelled with the words 'made with raw milk'. This includes labelling on the packaging, document, label, ring or collar accompanying or referring to the product. This point is expanded on in guidance which states that the labelling information concerning products made from raw milk applies up to the point of sale

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice her Department provides to the public on the consumption of unpasteurised cheeses. [85957]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

We are advised by the Food Standards Agency, which has responsibility for food safety and hygiene matters, that the Government advise vulnerable groups (pregnant women, children under five, elderly and immune-compromised) to avoid eating unpasteurised cheeses.

Coastal Areas

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the economic benefits of the coastal path. [86615]

Richard Benyon: An Impact Assessment of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 was published in March 2010. Annex 4 of the Impact Assessment included an assessment of the provisions on coastal access under Part 9 of that Act.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if she will make a statement. [85637]

Richard Benyon: The internal audit programme is proposed on an annual basis by the organisation's head of internal audit (HIA) and approved by its Audit and Risk Committee. It should cover the key systems of governance, risk management and internal control. Programmes of internal audit work are developed in accordance with Government Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) (based on International Internal Audit Standards), taking into account guidance on internal audit planning issued by HM Treasury. The key criteria established by these standards for deciding what to audit is risk to corporate/strategic objectives.

In the course of any year, the decision on whether to proceed with an audit will depend on the changing risk profile of the organisation. In addition, the HIA may decide to rely on available alternative sources of assurance rather than conduct an audit themselves.

DEFRA Executive agencies' internal audit programmes comprise a mix of risk-based, process/systems, legislative and European Union compliance audits. Each organisation's annual programme of work may or may not include indicative timings for audit work. The decision on when to hold an audit will take account of a number of factors including:

the nature of the risk;

the timing of previous and related assurances over the risk;

resource availability; and

the requirements of third parties who rely on internal audit work (e.g. the NAO and the EC).

Departmental Buildings

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* building and *(b)* refurbishment projects her Department plans in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13; and what the cost of each such project will be. [74350]

Richard Benyon: The current significant projects for the core department which have been approved for 2011-12 are shown as follows. This consolidates both buildings and refurbishment projects as the two are often inseparable.

Business area	*Description of project*	*Estimated cost (£ million)*
Core	DEFRA spend on sustainability works in the core Department and on behalf of Executive agencies and NDPBs. The works have been a series of planned projects to reduce Carbon Emissions and improve energy efficiency. Based on estimates, this work will save DEFRA between £0.4 million and £0.5 million per annum.	1.5
Core	Work undertaken to facilitate the staff move from the 4th floor at 9 Millbank to Nobel House. This work has enabled DEFRA to reduce its estate portfolio and will reduce costs by £0.5 million per annum	0.026

At present, no plans have been approved for 2012-13.

Departmental Civil Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisations that have received funding from her Department have brought legal proceedings against her Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether her Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83887]

Richard Benyon: None of the Department's arm's length bodies that are sponsored by, and receive funding from the Department have brought legal proceedings against the Department in the last five years.

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what receptions and events have been hosted by her Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by third parties. [84204]

Richard Benyon: There is no central record of all receptions and events the Department has hosted, and the Department will not be able to accurately collate this information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which services her Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84228]

Richard Benyon: The core Department outsourced its facilities services in April 2009, and the Information Technology services contract which was put in place in October 2004 was reviewed in 2009 and extended in February 2010. There were no other transfers of functions from the core Department to the private sector in the past five years.

Internships

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many unpaid and expenses-only internships there have been in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [78748]

Richard Benyon: For the period 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011, there were two unpaid and expense-only internships, both in the Environment Agency, a non-departmental public body.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85054]

Richard Benyon: The following table sets out details of written questions for answer on a named day that received a substantive answer within five working days.

	Number of named day PQs received	*Number answered on time*	*Proportion answered on time (percentage)*
June 2011	40	37	93
July 2011	40	32	80
August 2011	3	3	100
September 2011	32	28	88
October 2011	27	11	41
November 2011	67	45	67

Eggs: Imports

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish any legal advice she received on the potential for the Government to implement a unilateral ban on the import of eggs from EU member states that have not complied with Directive 1999/74/EC. [86578]

Mr Paice: The Government's legal advice is protected by legal professional privilege. The Government's position is not ordinarily to waive the legal privilege attaching to any legal advice received.

Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will consider awarding points under the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme for allowing permissive recreational access as an incentive to land managers. [86557]

Richard Benyon: Unlike Entry Level Stewardship, Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) is not based on a points system, but comprises individual multi-objective agreements in highly targeted areas and situations where maximum environmental outcomes can be achieved. It is not therefore possible to introduce points for provision of permissive access.

Flood Control: Finance

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department has allocated to flood prevention in each of the last three financial years. [85430]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is due to spend £550 million in the current financial year on managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion across England. This compares with £628 million in 2009-10, and £664 million in 2010-11. Over the four years of the 2010 spending review period, DEFRA expects to spend a total of £2.17 billion managing flood and coastal erosion risks in comparison with £2.32 billion during the previous four years. This is a reduction of 6%.

Floods: North-east England

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what flood and coastal environmental risk management schemes she plans for the north-east in the next 10 years. [85349]

Richard Benyon: In May, the Government announced reforms to the national funding system. The new partnership approach to funding flood and coastal resilience means that money is potentially available to pay a share of the costs of any worthwhile scheme. The amount each

scheme can receive depends on the number of households protected, the damages prevented, and any other benefits a scheme will bring. Where full funding cannot be justified, the shortfall can be made up through cost savings or by contributions from other sources. This will mean that, over time, local ambitions in terms of protection no longer need be constrained by issues of national budgetary affordability.

Decisions on flood and coastal erosion risk schemes to be delivered in the north-east are made by the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, with advice from the Environment Agency.

The Environment Agency has proposed the following 18 indicative schemes within the committee's area for 2012-13, at a combined cost of £26,575,000:

Scheme name	*Funding allocated in 2012-13 (£000)*
Redcar	11,400
Morpeth Flood Alleviation Scheme	5,327
Realignment of Littlehaven Sea Wall	2,931
Greatham North	2,532
Seaton Carew Northern Management Unit Phase 2 (MA13.1 B-E)	2,100
Town Wall Model Study and Construction C6-3, Hartlepool	1,200
Blyth Sea Defences	315
Stokesley Flood Alleviation Scheme[1]	200
Stanhope River Wear Flood Alleviation Scheme	125
Neasham Village Flood Protection and Reservoir Safety Works	75
North Blyth Coast Protection Scheme	75
Briarvale—Appraisal, Design and Construction[1]	50
Fairfield Green—Appraisal, Design and Construction[1]	50
Netherton Flood Alleviation Scheme	50
Newbiggin Point Coast Protection Scheme	50
Strategy Frontage 3—North East Pier/South West Breakwater/Hendon Foreshore Barrier[1]	50
Newbiggin Bay Beach Management Phase 2	25
Strategy Frontage 1—South Bents and Seaburn Sea Walls Overtopping Protection[1]	20
Total	26,575

[1] Funding shown is to develop the business case, and does not include construction. Funding for construction will depend on the outcome of the business case.

The schemes include those promoted directly by the Environment Agency as well as schemes being promoted directly by local authorities. The final programme for 2012-13 will be announced in February 2012. 12 of these schemes are being made possible by local contributions under the new partnership funding arrangements.

The Environment Agency also proposes to spend £2,149,000 in 2012-13 on the maintenance of existing schemes, improvements to flood forecasting, mapping and warning and on studies for future schemes. It is working with local stakeholders on a programme of further flood and coastal environmental risk schemes it hopes will be implemented over the next 10 years.

Land: Sustainable Development

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department plans to maintain national sustainable development indicator *(a)* 25 on land recycling and *(b)* 26 on dwelling density; and if she will make a statement. [85362]

Richard Benyon: The Government are committed to publishing a revised set of sustainable development indicators. DEFRA officials are discussing individual indicators with the relevant Government Departments, in this case the Department for Communities and Local Government. No decisions have yet been made on which measures will continue as sustainable development indicators but, in the new year, we shall be undertaking a public consultation on proposals. In the interests of making the sustainable development indicators more effective at highlighting priorities and challenges, the number of indicators may be reduced, but in most cases measures that are no longer included in the set will nevertheless continue to be reported in their own right by the relevant Department.

Waste Disposal: Lighting

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration she has given to providing advice to consumers on dealing with broken energy-saving light bulbs; and if she will make a statement. [82467]

Richard Benyon: Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) contain a small amount of mercury in order to operate. Since 1 September 2010, it has been a legal obligation under EU Regulation 244/2009 for anyone placing lamps containing mercury on the market to provide instructions on free-access websites that explain how to clean up lamp debris in case of accidental lamp breakage.

In addition, the Health Protection Agency provides advice on how to clean up broken CFLs on its website.

Nature Conservation: EU Law

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which special areas of conservation are covered by the European Habitats Directive; and which special protection areas are covered by the European Birds Directive. [84838]

Richard Benyon: All special areas of conservation (SAC) are designated under articles 3 and 4 of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). All special protection areas (SPA) are designated under article 4 of the EU Wild Birds Directive (2009/147/EC—codified version).

European protected site information can be found on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish an environmental impact assessment of the proposal to review implementation of the European Habitats and Wild Birds Directive. [85272]

Richard Benyon: The review of implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives will take full account of the need to maintain the integrity of the purpose of the directives. If any proposals arising from the review require impact assessments these will be carried out at the appropriate time.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason her Department plans to conduct a review of how well the EU Habitats and Wild Birds Directives are being applied in England. [85366]

Richard Benyon: As announced in the Autumn Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), DEFRA will conduct an in-depth review of how the EU Habitats and Birds Directives are currently being implemented in England, working with stakeholders and other Government Departments.

The vast majority of development cases successfully meet the directives' requirements without undue delays, but a small number raise particularly complex issues which can give rise to delays. The review will look at the reasons behind this and seek to identify solutions, engaging interested parties in its work, while maintaining the integrity of the purpose of the directives.

Noise: National Policy Statements

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to update the Noise Policy Statement for England. [86167]

Richard Benyon: There are currently no plans to update the Noise Policy Statement for England 2010. However, as we stated in the 2011 Natural Environment White Paper, the Government are committed to delivering the Noise Policy Statement for England with its long-term vision of promoting good health and good quality of life. This will be achieved through the effective management of noise in the context of the Government's policy on sustainable development.

Pollution: EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) for what reason her Department plans to conduct a review of the implementation of the EU ambient air quality directive; [85367]

(2) for what reason she plans to review the implementation of the EU national emissions ceiling directive; [85368]

Richard Benyon: In March, the European Commission published their Staff Working Paper on the implementation of EU air quality policy and preparations for their comprehensive review. The paper makes clear that proposals to revise ambient air quality and national emission ceilings legislation are expected in 2013. Existing legislation includes provisions for such reviews.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84203]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA uses postcodes to identify particular areas on mapping databases and in analysis of spatial data to support a range of departmental activities; for example: analysis of rural statistics and animal disease control.

Rights of Way

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to improve the ease with which incorrectly identified rights of way can be corrected. [85799]

Richard Benyon: In the Government White Paper: "The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature", DEFRA announced that it will consult on simplifying and streamlining the processes for recording and making changes to public rights of way, based on proposals made by Natural England's working group on unrecorded rights of way. I am currently considering the options for this consultation and expect to make an announcement in due course.

Rural Areas: Renewable Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to launch her proposed Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund. [85483]

Richard Benyon: Further details about the Government's Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund, including its funding, management and operation, will be published in the new year.

Waste Management: Exports

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tonnes of waste were exported from the UK for treatment abroad in each of the last five years; and what proportion of the UK's waste this represented. [84288]

Richard Benyon: The following table details the tonnage of waste exported from England and Wales for the last five years under the system of pre-notification to the Environment Agency under the EU waste shipments regulation. These permitted shipments are mainly hazardous wastes shipped to EU member states and members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Exports of waste from England and Wales

			Tonnes
	Disposal	*Recovery*	*Total*
2006	0	115,754	115,754
2007	0	136,164	136,164
2008	35	184,456	184,491
2009	1,224	246,919	248,143
2010	41	562,335	562,376

In addition to this notified waste, DEFRA estimates that approximately 15 million tonnes of non-hazardous waste is exported each year for recovery including recycling, which represents around 5% of the UK's waste. As this waste may be exported without pre-notification and under commercial controls, the Environment Agency does not collect data about these shipments.

Water Supply

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the options for *(a)* water supply and *(b)* billing of those receiving water via resale; and if she will make a statement. [86207]

Richard Benyon: Water resale commonly occurs in mobile home parks, flats, apartments and other rented or leasehold accommodation. Under section 150 of the

Water Industry Act 1991, Ofwat have the power to make an order fixing the maximum resale price for water or sewerage services, either by specifying the maximum amount of the charge or by specifying how the maximum price should be calculated.

Ofwat have said in their forward programme for 2011-12 to 2013-14 that they will review the water resale order in 2012 to ensure it remains appropriate.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to answer questions *(a)* 74350, *(b)* 74351, *(c)* 74352 and *(d)* 74353 tabled by the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan on 12 October 2011. [83837]

Richard Benyon: I apologise to the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan. My answers on *(a)* 74350 and *(b)* 74351 will be published shortly. My answer on *(c)* 74352, was published on 23 November 2011, *Official Report*, 424W and *(d)* 74353, was published on 30 November 2011, *Official Report*, 942W.

SCOTLAND

Broadband

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on increasing the take-up of new high speed broadband in Scotland. [86203]

David Mundell: Scotland Office Ministers and officials have regular discussions with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on a range of issues including broadband. I attended the Ministerial Group on Broadband, most recently on 10 October 2011.

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) whether food and catering services in his Department plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards; [85850]

(2) what steps the food and catering services in his Department are taking to ensure the country of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85851]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not have food and catering services.

Departmental Secondment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86145]

David Mundell: There have been no secondments to the Scotland Office from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85920]

David Mundell: This information is not available in the form requested.

From the start of the 2010-12 Session to 30 November 2011, the Scotland Office answered 444 (90%) of ordinary written parliamentary questions on time.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide this information to the committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last had a discussion with the Scottish Government on the extension of the proposed High Speed 2 line to the Scottish border. [86360]

David Mundell: My officials and I are in regular contact with counterparts in the Scottish Government in regard to the High Speed 2 project. We look forward to having more detailed discussions if and when the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), approves proposals for the initial phases of the project, for construction of a line from London to the West Midlands, and north to Manchester and Leeds.

Housing Benefit: Carers

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has *(a)* held discussions and *(b)* corresponded with (i) the Scottish Government, (ii) the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and (iii) children's charities in Scotland on the effect of the planned introduction of an under-occupancy limit for housing benefit on foster carers of working age in Scotland. [86205]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and officials from the Scotland Office are in contact with these organisations on a range of issues concerning the Government's reform of the welfare and benefits system.

Public Houses

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions officials in his Department have had with their counterparts in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on their response to the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee's inquiry into pub companies insofar as it relates to Scotland. [86397]

David Mundell: Officials in BIS have been in contact with their counterparts in the Scotland Office and in the Office of the Advocate-General in respect of this inquiry. Following investigation, the OFT found no evidence of competition problems in the pub industry having a significant impact on consumers. It was concluded that legally binding self-regulation of pub companies, or 'pubcos', could be introduced far more quickly than any statutory solution. Officials in OAG confirmed that the code of practice can be made legally binding under Scots law by contract or incorporation into, or variation of, leases; the legal principles are similar to those in England and Wales.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85653]

John Penrose: This Department and its Executive agency, the Royal Parks, try to commission services that encompass economic, social and environmental aspects. Usually this is included within the statement of requirements. Other centralised contracts are commissioned by Cabinet Office directly.

EDUCATION

Capita

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each such contract. [84746]

Tim Loughton: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent Central (Tristram Hunt) on 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1138W.

Child Protection Review

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress he has made on implementation of the recommendations of the Munro report into child protection. [86572]

Tim Loughton: Good progress is being made across the full range of commitments in the Government response published in July.

We are reducing bureaucracy and making it easier for the front line to use their professional judgment through revisions to "Working Together to Safeguard Children" and the "Framework of Assessment for Children in Need and their Families". There will be a formal consultation from early 2012 and we will publish revised statutory guidance by July 2012. A multi-disciplinary professional advisory group is advising us on this work.

Government, Ofsted and the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) have come together with a range of other partners to develop and agree local child safeguarding performance information that puts professional expertise, rather than process, at the heart of local quality assurance. This is now published on the Department's website and we will be consulting in the new year on national performance information.

Over the summer, Ofsted consulted on local authority child protection inspection arrangements that are more child centred. These new arrangements will begin in May 2012. All relevant inspectorates have also now agreed in principle to Professor Munro's proposed model of joint inspection to ensure that the contribution of all local services to safeguarding is examined. The inspectorates are working through what such a model will look like and when it will begin, and will give a progress update by end March 2012.

On 31 October we published a co-produced work programme, "Safeguarding Children in the reformed NHS". Phase one is under way, led by the Chief Nursing Officer. Stakeholders will be consulted on the draft Accountabilities Framework in January 2012.

We have been working with partners to consider the best route to secure Professor Munro's vision of a transparent and co-ordinated offer of early help for children and families. We have engaged with partners in ADCS, health, police and education and have concluded that we do not need a new statutory duty to deliver early help and that there is sufficient existing legislation to realise Professor Munro's recommendation. We will continue to work with partners to clarify existing legislation to emphasise the importance of early help. In the meantime we encourage local areas to continue to work to provide early help for the compelling arguments that Professor Munro articulated.

We are working with eight local authorities to trial more flexible approaches to assessment. The evidence from these trials is being evaluated now. The emerging findings are encouraging and suggest that both removing the distinction between the initial and core assessments and replacing nationally prescribed time scales for assessment with timely, professional judgments can have the positive impact on practice envisaged by Professor Munro. Some of these trials have been running for only a few months and we need to explore further the impact of these changes, especially for children and young people. For this reason we have extended the trials to run until 31 March 2012 and will be consulting on flexibilities as part of the "Working Together" consultation next year.

After consultation, and a market sounding exercise, we have taken the decision to decommission the National electronic Common Assessment Framework system (National eCAF). This is consistent with Professor Munro's view that we should remove constraints to local innovation and professional judgment that are created by prescribing approaches such as national IT systems. We will work with the current users of the system over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition. As part of the decommissioning process we will consider the options to secure value out of the Government owned assets.

Our reforms of child protection are underpinned by workforce reform, in particular reform of the social work profession which is being led by the Social Work Reform Board and the College of Social Work.

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) and the College of Social Work are supporting

local authorities in designating a Principal Child and Family Social Worker in every local area. These roles will play a key part in redesigning child and family social work. The Department for Education and the Department of Health have been making preparations for the appointment of a Chief Social Worker to advise Government on social work practice and the effectiveness of help being provided to children, families and adults. We are confident that the Chief Social Worker will be in post in 2012, ahead of the timeline envisaged in the Government's response.

We are clarifying and strengthening accountabilities in the system and taking action to improve learning from Serious Case Reviews.

We are currently consulting on new guidance for DCSs and Lead Members so that we have real clarity about their roles. My officials and I have also held discussions with groups of Local Safeguarding Children Boards Chairs to consider what might be done to strengthen their central role in challenging and monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and we will be exploring options with stakeholders over coming weeks. This will build on our reforms around learning, early help, inspection and performance information which emphasise the importance of LSCBs.

Improving learning from serious incidents is critical to driving improvements in practice in child protection. Following Professor Munro's recommendation to use systems methodologies for Serious Case Reviews (SCR), we are considering how the Social Care Institute for Excellence's (SCIE) "Learning Together" model can be developed further for use in SCRs. I announced last month that Coventry LSCB would pilot the SCIE model and we have now agreed that Lancashire LSCB will also carry out a pilot. While the pilots are in progress, my officials are also exploring, learning from sectors such as aviation and health, other ways of ensuring effective, sustained learning from serious incidents embedded in everyday practice, with greater transparency and accountability. We will consult formally on new arrangements for SCRs next year.

We have been working with Ofsted to develop transitional arrangements in response to Professor Munro's recommendation to end Ofsted's evaluation of SCRs. From January 2012, Ofsted evaluations of SCRs will be more streamlined with a greater focus on identifying and embedding learning in order to support improvements in professional practice.

Implementing the Munro recommendations requires a shift in mindset. The Government response was not intended to be seen as a one-off set of recommended solutions to be imposed from the centre, but a joint venture between central Government, local agencies, local authorities and professionals. Our reforms are designed to shift the focus of the child protection system on to the things that matter most: the views and experiences of children and young people.

Children in Care

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will expand the destination codes in the SSDA903 return to identify when a child runs away from care or is abducted or trafficked. [82417]

Tim Loughton: The Department has no plans to expand the codes under which local authorities provide statistical returns on children missing from care, as this will lead to an unnecessary increase in reporting requirements. It is the responsibility of local authorities to safeguard and promote the well-being of children in care, and they will hold more detailed information on each child who has gone missing from their care.

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he has taken to encourage local authorities to share good practice and reduce poor performance in providing services for looked-after children. [85254]

Tim Loughton: We have made clear that we want to see rapid improvements in the quality of support given to looked-after children, and in the volume and timeliness of adoption where this is in the child's best interest. It is therefore essential to bring all authorities up to the standards of the best. The new Children in Care and Adoption Performance Tables, published on 31 October and being updated this month, show the extent of the variations in performance between different authorities, and where improvements need to be made.

Local authorities need to ensure that they draw on best practice and make full use of evidence based interventions such as Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care. We will continue to support them in doing this, and to help maximise the impact of well-informed local support and challenge from independent reviewing officers, virtual school heads, children in care councils and voluntary sector networks.

A full set of streamlined, more coherent regulations and guidance came into force in April, and revised national minimum standards have also been published. The Foster Carers' Charter now sets out clear principles for how foster carers should be supported and our programme of improvement for children's homes includes support for the sharing of good practice and identifying and tackling weaknesses.

Children in Care: Finance

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the appropriate level for the leaving care grant set by local authorities; and whether he is taking steps to ensure that variability between local authorities in setting such grants is reduced. [85255]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not collect information on the level of setting up home allowances, sometimes known as leaving care grants, determined by individual local authorities. Statutory guidance on the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 emphasises how important it is for local authorities to provide transparent and accessible information about the leaving care support they offer, including through the payment of setting up home allowances. The guidance explains that local authorities should consult young people, particularly through Children in Care Councils, in deciding the right level of allowance.

Children: Autism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many students with autism are enrolled in mainstream schools in *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* the London borough of Havering and *(c)* Romford; [83141]

(2) how many students with autism are enrolled in specialist schools in *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* the London borough of Havering and *(c)* Romford. [83142]

Sarah Teather: The requested information is shown in the following table:

State-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1,2,3,4]: Number and percentage of pupils with autistic spectrum disorder[5,6]—January 2011, England, Greater London, Havering local authority and Romford parliamentary constituency

	Pupils with statements of SEN or at School Action Plus with autistic spectrum disorder[5,6]							
	State-funded primary schools[2,3]		*State-funded secondary schools[1,3]*		*Special schools[4]*		*Total[1,2,3,4]*	
	No.	*%[7]*	*No.*	*%[7]*	*No.*	*%[7]*	*No.*	*%[7]*
England[8]	22,810	6.9	20,615	7.5	18,150	19.6	61,570	8.8
Greater London[8]	4,595	7.8	2,710	5.9	3,175	26.1	10,485	8.9
Havering local authority	82	7.1	79	7.9	15	6.3	176	7.4
Romford parliamentary constituency	36	7.4	20	6.3	n/a	n/a	56	6.9

n/a = Not applicable. No schools of this type.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes primary academies.
[3] Includes city technology and secondary academies.
[4] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[5] Includes pupils who are sole or dual main registrations.
[6] Information on primary need, and if appropriate, secondary need, is collected for pupils at School Action Plus and those pupils with a statement of SEN. Information on primary need only is given here.
[7] Number of pupils with autistic spectrum disorder expressed as a percentage of the corresponding population of pupils at School Action Plus or with a statement of SEN in the same geographical cohort.
[8] National and regional totals have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
School Census

Information on type of special educational need at local authority level is available in the 'Special Educational Needs in England: January 2011' Statistical First Release (Tables 23 to 25) which can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001007/index.shtml

Children: Day Care

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the total funding from the public purse for child care *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita for (i) Birmingham, (ii) Newcastle, (iii) Wakefield, (iv) Manchester, (v) Leeds, (vi) Liverpool, (vii) Coventry, (viii) Bristol, (ix) Sheffield, (x) Bradford, (xi) Leicester and (xii) Nottingham in each of the next five years. [82765]

Sarah Teather: The Department funds local authorities to provide free early education places (of 15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year) for all three and four-year-olds and some disadvantaged two-year-olds. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced in his autumn statement on 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, that the commitment to give free early education to disadvantaged two-year-olds will now be extended from 20% to 40% of two-year-olds by 2014-15. This will mean additional funding of £73 million in 2012-13, £203 million in 2013-14 and £380 million in 2014-15, bringing the total funding for two-year-old places to £296 million, £534 million and £760 million in these years.

Funding for places for three and four-year-olds is provided through the dedicated schools grant (DSG) which funds education for all children aged three to 16. Funding for places for disadvantaged two-year-olds is provided through the early intervention grant (EIG) which also funds a range of other children's services. Local authorities are responsible for deciding how much of the DSG, EIG or other local authority funds to allocate for free early education places.

Local authorities report their planned funding allocations through the annual section 251 financial return. From this information, an estimate of the funding allocated in 2011-12 for free early education places for two, three and four-year-olds and other early years spend in each of the named local authorities is provided in the following table. However, this may not represent the full spend on early years and child care services by the local authority. Further information on local authority allocations is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/strategy/financeandfunding/section251/b00197958/s251-workbooks-budget-2011-12

£

	Early years		
Local authority	*EIG or other*	*DSG*	*Total*
(i) Birmingham	10,261,127	56,559,326	66,820,453
(ii) Newcastle	863,510	10,874,511	11,738,021
(iii) Wakefield	874,070	14,072,831	14,946,901
(iv) Manchester	3,587,000	28,435,265	32,022,265
(v) Leeds	4,659,580	26,801,102	31,460,682
(vi) Liverpool	1,118,975	8,734,712	9,853,687
(vii) Coventry	2,151,557	13,412,432	15,563,989
(viii) Bristol	692,000	20,470,401	21,162,401
(ix) Sheffield	2,500	25,405,962	25,408,462
(x) Bradford	9,889,483	29,996,382	39,885,865
(xi) Leicester	5,818,256	5,804,435	11,622,691
(xii) Nottingham	4,203,642	12,361,696	16,565,338

The Department does not hold information on the funding per capita for child care or on funding projections for the next five years in each local authority area. The Government also provide financial support towards the cost of child care, for working parents, through the child care element of working tax credit and through tax relief on employer supported child care.

Departmental Advertising

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what advertising campaigns his Department has commissioned in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of each campaign. [85178]

Tim Loughton: The requested information is outlined in the following table. The figures include all production costs for the campaigns including media and production fees. Where a figure of zero spend has been provided, this is because no campaigns have been run in that year.

Campaign	*2009/10*	*2010/11*	£ *2011/12*
Alcohol and Young People behaviour change campaign	4,982,490	0	0
14-19 Diplomas awareness campaign	4,914,179	0	0
Sure Start brand awareness campaign	3,502,038	0	0
Science and Maths behaviour change campaign	2,986,564	0	0
Teenage Pregnancy behaviour change campaign	2,669,169	0	0
Internet Safety Partnership Campaign	2,526,705	0	0
Modern Foreign Languages behaviour change campaign	1,988,166	0	0
Frank Drugs Campaign	1,498,323	0	0
Social Work Recruitment Campaign	1,354,611	0	0
Extended Services awareness campaign	1,012,992	0	0
Affordable Childcare public information campaign	497,969	0	0
Cyber Bullying Digital Campaign	469,976	0	0
Total	28,403,182	0.00	0.00

Departmental Civil Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83885]

Tim Loughton: Records of legal proceedings against the Department for Education and its predecessors are not sorted by reference to whether the organisations bringing proceedings are funded by the Department. A search and analysis of all records of legal proceedings brought over the past five years would involve disproportionate cost. However, the following organisations that have received funding from the Department have brought proceedings against the Department in the past 18 months: the Child Poverty Action Group, Essex county council, Kent county council, Luton borough council, Newham London borough council, Nottingham city council, Sandwell metropolitan borough council, Waltham Forest London borough council. The Child Poverty Action Group's and Essex county council's claims against the Department have yet to be heard. The claims brought by the other six organisations were joined together and were successful.

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84196]

Tim Loughton: As part of wider reforms to our corporate functions, and rationalising the number of agencies and non-departmental public bodies, the Department is currently centralising communications functions and reducing communication staff numbers.

The Department has reduced its total communications staff from 130 in April 2010, to 86 in April 2011, to 69 to date. Communication staff numbers in agencies and non-departmental public bodies have reduced from 204 in April 2010, to 105 in April 2011, and we anticipate this figure to reduce to zero by the end of the financial year.

There are currently *(a)* 15 press officers, *(b)* four internal communications officers, *(d)* four communications strategy officers, and *(e)* 46 other positions with a communications remit in the Department; for example web editing, speechwriting, publishing, and events management. We do not categorise *(c)* external communications officers.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what contracts his Department has awarded for design services since May 2010; and what information his Department holds on the location of such companies. [80183]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education let a new framework agreement for creative media services on 4 July 2011. This framework replaced a number of old frameworks, including design services.

The new framework was awarded to Creative Choice—a newly-formed small medium enterprise (SME) consortium and community interest company. Three principal companies provide first tier management functions:

Live Group (chair and project management) based in London/ Sheffield;

WCL (account management) based in London; and

CDS (sourcing and supply management) based in Leeds.

This first tier manages a broad second tier supply base, including companies delivering design services. The framework is currently mid-process in evaluating potential suppliers. Phase 1 is complete, and due to the significant interest from the SME market—a phase 2

has started and will be completed by January 2012. To date the following design companies have joined the second tier supply base (location in brackets):

Bell (London);

Bentley Holland (London);

Brass(Leeds);

Buffalo Design (Bath);

CDS (Leeds);

Domarn Group (London);

Folio Creative Communication Ltd (Henley-on-Thames, Oxon);

Kindred (London);

Live Group (London);

Oxford Strategic Marketing (Oxford);

the Workshop (Sheffield);

Wordlink (London); and

Yes Agency (Uttoxeter, Staffs).

The phase 2 evaluation will add a further four to six design companies to this list.

Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what procedures his Department has put in place to ensure value for money on purchases; and what savings have been realised through use of such procedures in the last year. [83643]

Tim Loughton: The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the right hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), in his answer to his hon. Friend the Member for Southport (John Pugh) on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 615-16W, said that the Government had announced a more specific and innovative approach to efficiency and reform across the public sector led by the Efficiency and Reform Group (ERG) in Cabinet Office, including:

a reduction in administration budgets of 34% across the whole of Whitehall and its arm's length bodies saving £5.9 billion a year by 2014-15;

radically reducing the number of arm's length bodies across government; and

the Efficiency and Reform Group's tough new efficiency regime which will drive savings in procurement, major projects and estate management.

The Department has established internal procedures which underpin these cross-Government arrangements introduced by ERG, and which provide scrutiny of spend across the Department for Education and our arm's length bodies.

It is departmental policy to competitively tender all contract opportunities and to award contracts to the supplier offering best value for money.

In August 2011, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), announced that ERG's new measures had saved £3.75 billion over 2010/11.

This impact was assessed using methodologies follows at Annex A. The assessment has been independently verified by Government auditors who found the benefits assertions to be fairly calculated and presented.

These savings are born out in my Department's annual report and accounts 2010-11:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/d/annual%20report%20and%20accounts%202010%2011.pdf

Note 9 (a), page 83, reports that other administration costs for my Department reduced from £70.713 million in financial year 2009-10 to £65.868 million in financial year 2010-11. Figures in this report are prepared in accordance with HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual for central Government Departments and associated Treasury resource accounting and budgeting guidance.

Annex A: Activity and calculation method

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence base/calculation*
Consulting	Government put in place a moratorium on new consulting spend, and extensions to existing contracts. Where spend was considered operationally critical (for example, where it might put at risk critical services) an exception process existed for department ministers to sign off expenditure over £20,000.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2010/11 from total departmental reported spend on consultancy for 2009/10. To reduce the risk of costs shifting between categories, we also monitored expenditure on other Professional Services categories, including contingent labour.
Crown Commercial	Government has renegotiated deals with some of the largest suppliers to government.	The method of calculation varies according to the initiative that yields the saving, but was based on cash releasing savings against a baseline of what would have otherwise been spent. This was often price savings against the previous price paid. Savings agreed with suppliers are recorded in Memoranda of Understanding as guaranteed-in-year or conditional-in-year savings. Realised savings were subsequently tracked back to departmental verification of supplier progress reports.
Contingent Labour	Government has significantly cut the number of temporary staff.	Savings are calculated by subtracting total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2010/11 from total departmental reported spend on contingent labour for 2009/10.
Communications	Government froze all new marketing spend unless it is an operational necessity. Where spend was proposed, Ministerial sign-off was required for £20,000 or above.	Calculations compare departmental spend on marketing and advertising through COI for 2010/11 with that for 2009/10.

Annex A: Activity and calculation method

Area	*Activity description*	*Evidence base/calculation*
Centralising Procurement	Government has started to centralise spend on common goods and services to drive down prices. These savings derive from the 10 categories of expenditure targeted for centralisation, and relate to price savings through increased aggregation.	For each initiative, calculations are performed using individual benefit methodologies that set out how savings will be calculated against a 2009/10 price baseline. Evidence is management information provided by suppliers.
ICT	We implemented: (a) a moratorium on all new ICT spend above £1 million; and (b) a review of all on-going ICT commitments. Departments also reported those projects that were closed before undergoing the review.	Calculations are based on departmental reports of spend that has not proceeded. Spend that has not gone ahead in 2010/11 is recorded, as a result of stopping or reducing spend. Further, sustainable savings are targeted through the Government ICT strategy.
Major Projects	We reviewed the Government's biggest projects to see where 2010/11 costs could practically be reduced within contractual constraints, or wasteful projects stopped altogether. We've halted or curtailed spend on 4 projects: 14-19 Reform—£60 million Identity Cards—£50 million Highways Agency Projects—£54 million Whole Farm—£5 million. We have redacted £22 million of potential double counting from these figures that arises between this work and our supplier renegotiation work stream. £14.9 million arises from the Home Office National Identity Cards and £6.7 million from DEFRA Whole Farm.	HMT have provided assurance that the relevant amounts were removed from departmental budgets following the Major Projects related negotiations.
Property	We put in place national property controls such that signature of new property leases or lease extensions were approved centrally. It has not always been possible to net off all costs associated with vacating buildings. However, we have also not claimed savings in respect of revenue from property disposals.	Calculations are property by property based on the amount departments have reported saved through the Government's property database by non-renewal of property leases at lease breaks or upon lease expiry.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84233]

Tim Loughton: When the Department vacated Caxton house in November 2007 and handed the building to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), as part of its central London estate rationalisation strategy, six members of staff from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (the predecessor to the Department for Education) who provided mailroom, security guarding and reception services transferred to DWP's outsourced service provider.

While the Department had already outsourced elements of its security guarding services in sanctuary buildings before the period requested, further day-time guarding services were transferred to the existing outsourced contract in 2009/10.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department allocated to *(a)* the Institute of Physics, *(b)* the Life Science Centre, *(c)* Mathematics in Education and Industry, *(d)* the Royal Society of Engineering, *(e)* Stemnet, *(f)* Sporting Futures, *(g)* Sports Coach UK and *(h)* Youth Sport Trust in 2010-11; how much it plans to pay each organisation in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [85689]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 8 December 2011]:* The Department's finance system shows that payments made to the named organisations in financial year 2010-11 was as given in the following table. Also included are estimates of the funding for financial year 2011-12.

£

	Payments made in financial year 2010-11	*Estimated funding 2011-12*
Institute of Physics	1,073,308	1,300,000
The Life Science Centre	48,756	0
Mathematics in Education and Industry	1,467,331	1,500,000
The Royal Academy of Engineering[1]	12,000	12,000
Stemnet	2,204,421	1,500,000
Sporting Futures	0	0
Sports Coach UK	102,90.0	0
Youth Sport Trust	12,395,730	750,000

[1] The PQ refers to the Royal Society of Engineering though the actual name is as shown in the table.

Departmental Travel Costs

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75532]

Tim Loughton: Between May 2010 and September 2011 the Department for Education spent £192,510 on first-class rail journeys and there were no first-class journeys by sea or air during this period.

70% of the first-class rail tickets spend between May 2010 and September 2011 (17 months) was spent in the five months May to September 2010 (£134,670 of a total of £192,510)

First-class rail travel costs for the period May 2010 to March 2011 was £166,636 (10.5%) of the total £1,585,485 rail travel costs.

First-class rail travel costs for the period April to September 2011 (six months) was £25,874 (4.3%) of the total £595,115 rail travel costs.

This information is a summary of transactions through the Department's Business Travel booking agent, Carlson Wagonlit Travel.

There are clear policy principles guiding this issue and staff are expected to travel standard-class except in a very few special circumstances, including access to facilities to accommodate disabilities or if it can be demonstrated that a first-class ticket is lower cost than standard class. The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), and other Ministers have a policy of travelling in standard class and the only first-class rail journey purchased since May 2010 by a member of this group was undertaken by the Secretary of State on 9 September 2010. On this occasion, the Secretary of State's Private Office was instructed by No. 10 officials to purchase a first-class ticket that ensured Mr Gove travelled with the Prime Minister first class to Norwich from London and return, in the same carriage, for security reasons.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85059]

Tim Loughton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Month due	*Proportion of named day PQs answered substantively within five working days (percentage)*
April 2011	69
May 2011	59
June 2011	51
July 2011	76
September 2011	59
October 2011	44

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009/10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Disadvantaged

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to support families adversely affected by the current economic climate. [83507]

Sarah Teather: The Department is providing significant support to families in the current economic climate. We are seeking to ensure that economic difficulties do not impair children's long-term life chances and that we support families to improve their circumstances.

In addition to the Government's support provided to families through the tax and benefit system, the Government have also allocated £2.2 billion (2011-12) and £2.3 billion (2012-13) in England to fund universal programmes and activities to all children, young people and families via the Early Intervention Grant.

The Department is extending the 15 hours per week of free early education currently offered to all three and four-year-olds, to 40% of two-year-olds by 2014-15. We are also reforming Sure Start to support better the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged families. The Government have also committed to continuing to provide free school meals to the most disadvantaged families.

The Department is providing £12.4 million over 2011-13 to voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver family support services online and through telephone helplines. Services are available to all families who can access a range of free, professional support including relationship advice, services tailored specifically for fathers, supporting single parents and information about benefits. A survey of users of the family services in September 2011 reported that 74% of users were women and that 52% of users had a joint household income of less than £25,000. 23% of users had a joint household income of less than £15,000. The survey also reported that 21% of users were unemployed.

We have also introduced new grants for the most disadvantaged young people through the Fairness Premium and the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

Drugs: Health Education

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of specific *(a)* school and *(b)* community-based drug education programmes; [82902]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that school and community-based drug education programmes are commissioned on the basis of evidence of effectiveness; [82903]

(3) what guidance he provides to local authorities on the commissioning of drug education programmes; [82904]

(4) whether he has considered introducing a minimum requirement for school-based drug education in Key Stages 2, 3 and 4. [82905]

Sarah Teather: The Drug Strategy, published in December 2010, recognised that all young people need high quality drug and alcohol education so they have a thorough knowledge of their effects and harms and have the skills and confidence to choose not to use drugs and alcohol. It said that schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug and alcohol misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities to pupils. This will be supported by revised, simplified guidance for schools on preventing drug and alcohol misuse.

It is not the role of Government to dictate decisions that are best made locally by professionals, so the Department does not issue guidance to local authorities on the commissioning of drug education programmes.

Drug education is currently a statutory part of the national curriculum for science at key stages 2, 3 and 4. Pupils are taught about the effects on the body of tobacco, alcohol and other substances and how these relate to their personal health.

The Department is currently reviewing the national curriculum. It has already confirmed that English, mathematics, science and physical education will continue

to be compulsory in future. DfE will consult next year on the proposed programmes of study for these four subjects. Proposals for the new scope of the national curriculum will be announced next year, following which there will be consultation before final decisions are made.

Drug education is also part of the non-statutory subject of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education at key stages 2, 3 and 4. Pupils are taught which drugs are illegal and the personal and social consequences of drug misuse for themselves and others.

PSHE education is currently under review. The aim is to identify the core body of knowledge that pupils need and to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching. Research findings form part of the national and international evidence base for the review. The Department will consult on its proposals for PSHE education next year.

Education: Finance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish details of the allocation of the extra £500 million in basic need funding he announced in July 2011. [83850]

Mr Gibb: The announcement was made on 3 November. This can be accessed by using the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/a00199873/allocation-of-extra-500-million-to-address-the-shortage-in-pupil-places

GCSE: Religion

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has undertaken any research on the number of pupils choosing to take a GCSE in religious education following the decision not to include the subject in the English baccalaureate. [85678]

Mr Gibb: The Department has not undertaken research specifically on the number of pupils choosing to take a GCSE in religious education following the introduction of the English baccalaureate.

It has undertaken research on the impact of the English baccalaureate on subject choices, which was published on 31 August 2011. The survey indicated that 47% of pupils taking GCSEs in 2013 in the schools responding will be taking subjects that could lead to an English baccalaureate, compared with just 23% of GCSE-stage pupils entered in 2011. The research did not provide evidence which could be used to draw robust conclusions about the take-up of individual subjects not included in the scope of the English baccalaureate.

The research report can be viewed at:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-RB150

Copies have already been placed in the House Libraries.

We will continue to monitor the impact of the English baccalaureate on GCSE subject choices, including through review of GCSE entries in 2012.

Members: Correspondence

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to the letter of 21 September 2011 from the hon. Member for South Northamptonshire. [85808]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* I replied on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), to my hon. Friend the Member for South Northamptonshire on 29 November.

Mothers: Young People

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of mothers aged 16 to 19 years were in education, employment or training on the latest date for which figures are available. [84860]

Tim Loughton: Latest estimates from the Labour Force Survey show that 28.6% of teenage mothers aged 16 to 19 were in education, employment or training in 2010. The proportion of teenage mothers who are in education, employment or training has remained fairly stable since 1998.

Music Education

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the national music plan (1) how many hours of music tuition per term children in *(a)* Lambeth, *(b)* Liverpool and *(c)* Norwich receive through the In Harmony Sistema England programme; and what estimate he has made of the number of hours of such tuition per term they will receive in each of the next three years; [85305]

(2) how many children in *(a)* Lambeth, *(b)* Liverpool and *(c)* Norwich receive music tuition through the In Harmony Sistema England programme; and what estimate he has made of the number of children who will receive such tuition in each of the next three years; [85306]

(3) how much funding will be provided per child through the In Harmony Sistema England programme in *(a)* Lambeth, *(b)* Liverpool and *(c)* Norwich. [85307]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* As set out in the national plan for music education, published on 25 November, In Harmony Sistema England is a specific and targeted part of the overall music education landscape. It is a social development programme offering children from deprived areas the opportunity to achieve their full potential through intensive music tuition and activity to raise aspirations and attainment.

This year, the three projects are operating as follows:

Lambeth: 418 children receive between 1.5 (in nursery) and 7.7 hours tuition each week. A further 50 children attend three to five hours of ensemble rehearsals per week.

Liverpool: 143 children from ages four to 13 years receive between three and seven hours tuition each week.

Norwich: 815 children receive at least one hour per week tuition in school from the In Harmony team, of whom 150 receive up to 8.5 hours of music tuition each week.

Each project also provides opportunities to attend holiday classes; perform in concerts; and attend concerts given by professional orchestras. In this financial year,

each project will receive £150,000 from the Department for Education, which is supplemented by additional funding from a variety of sources. The total cost per child is not, therefore, available centrally.

With continuing funding from Government, augmented by matched funding from Arts Council for England, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has announced his intention to expand the programme. We are working with the Arts Council to agree the detail of this expansion and will make further announcements in the new year. We are therefore not yet in a position to say how many children will receive music tuition through In Harmony Sistema England. However, the national plan set out an ambitious programme for wider music education for all children, in particular that, in exchange for DfE funding, music education hubs will ensure that all children learn to play an instrument, and to play in ensembles, and have the chance to progress.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the national music plan, how much funding has been allocated per child for music education in each local authority area in each of the three years from April 2012. [85308]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* The funding allocations announced as part of the national plan for music education include a basic amount for every child, with an additional amount for pupils eligible for free school meals. This second factor is intended as a proxy for the additional costs of ensuring that all children receive a high quality music education. The following table shows the basic unit cost of music funding per pupil and the additional funding each area will receive per pupil who is eligible for free school meals.

£

	2012-13	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Basic funding	8.99	7.75	7.89
Deprivation funding	6.07	5.23	5.32

We shall place copies of individual allocations per pupil in each local authority area in the House Libraries.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84194]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education (DfE) uses postcodes to help uniquely identify suppliers on its finance and procurement system. Supplier records use postcodes to differentiate the supplier site name and this, together with a system of unique supplier numbers, is used to ensure payments are made to the correct supplier.

Primary Education: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to address the shortage of primary school places in Peterborough city council area; and if he will make a statement. [84928]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* In this financial year £1.3 billion has been made available to fund school places in England. Peterborough's share in 2011-12 is £1.9 million. Furthermore, in his Autumn Statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that an additional £600 million will be provided to support the provision of school places. We are currently determining how to allocate this funding.

Peterborough city council is responsible for managing the supply and demand for primary places; and ensuring a place for every child of statutory school age. We will continue to provide capital funding and monitor the situation with all local authorities to help ensure there are sufficient school places.

Schools

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools of each (i) administrative type and (ii) religious designation in each area of the country he has visited since May 2010. [74726]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has visited the following schools between May 2010 and 22 November 2011.

Schools	*Administrative type*	*Religious designation*
18 Primary Schools	8 Community Schools	1 Jewish
	1 Foundation School	1 Roman Catholic
	2 Voluntary Aided Schools	
	4 Converter Academies	
	2 Free Schools 1 Sponsored Academy	
33 Secondary Schools	9 Community Schools	4 Church of England
	4 Foundation Schools	1 Roman Catholic
	5 Voluntary Aided Schools	
	1 Voluntary Controlled	
	5 Converter Academies	
	9 Sponsored Academies	
3 all-through schools (primary and secondary provision)	3 Academies	n/a

Schools	Administrative type	Religious designation
2 Special schools	2 maintained schools	—

n/a = Not applicable.

He has also visited two Further Education colleges.

Schools: Sports

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what long-term plans he has to promote a sustainable legacy for school sport post-2014; and if he will make a statement. [84835]

Tim Loughton: The Government believe that the best way to create a lasting legacy for school sport is to give schools the freedom to organise sport for themselves, rather than imposing a centralised Government blueprint. Schools are already required to provide physical education for all pupils and the National Curriculum review will strengthen the sport content of the subject. Additionally, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has made funds available to enable secondary schools to release a PE teacher for one day a week to increase opportunities for competitive sport for young people. This funding is in place for the two academic years 2011/12 and 2012/13. After then we expect schools to have embedded this work into their core provision.

Alongside the significant investment from the Department of Health, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Sport England for the School Games, these measures will enable schools to provide more competitive sport as part of a rounded education.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what legacy he expects school sports to receive from the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [84877]

Tim Loughton: The education legacy of the London 2012 Games will be that a generation is inspired by, and embraces, the Olympic and Paralympic Values. This programme will encourage schools and pupils: to make a positive contribution; to be more outward looking within their communities, nationally and internationally; and to adopt healthy and active lifestyles, whether by participation in sport or through other activities. With support from the Department for Education, LOCOG is delivering a new Get Set programme called 'Plan your 2012', which is designed to help schools to plan and deliver Get Set activity in the lead up to the Games.

Special Educational Needs: Stoke on Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessments Ofsted has carried out of the specialist education service for deaf children in Stoke-on-Trent. [83272]

Tim Loughton: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Miriam Rosen, has written to the hon. Member, and a copy of her response has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Miriam Rosen, dated 29 November 2011:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Services for disabled children and those who have special educational needs were last evaluated by Ofsted in Stoke-on-Trent's Joint Area Review in 2008. This review-found that support services for children who have sensory impairment were good.

The Joint Area Review programme ceased in 2008 and currently Ofsted does not specifically inspect support services for disabled children and those who have special educational needs.

Ofsted does, however, inspect safeguarding services and services for looked after children in local authorities. These inspections focus on children in need of, and children who may be in need of, protection - including where appropriate children with disabilities and those with special education needs. A report on these services in Stoke on Trent was published in August 2011 and found that children and young people with disabilities were supported well overall, with good and improving levels of consultation with parents and carers.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Tim Loughton MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Special Educational Needs: Visual Impairment

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what support his Department provides for partially sighted and blind pupils in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary education. [85179]

Sarah Teather: It is for individual schools and local authorities to decide what support services are needed by partially sighted and blind pupils. There are clear statutory duties in this area.

Nationally, the Department for Education is funding Dyslexia Action and RNIB to make more than 650 texts available in electronic formats for blind pupils and those with significant difficulties reading. The Department also funds the National Sensory Impairment Partnership to support schools and local authorities to learn from each other and improve services.

Students: Finance

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's estimate is of the total cost to the public purse of learners aged 19 years claiming Care to Learn at the start of their course if his Care to Learn policy remained unchanged in 2014-15. [85359]

Mr Gibb: It is not possible accurately to predict the cost in 2014-15 of payments to students aged 19 at the start of their course under the Care to Learn scheme, were it to remain unchanged, as this depends on the level of take-up from teenage parents. In 2010/11, around half of all planned payments under the Care to Learn scheme were to young parents aged 19 and over at the start of their course. We expect the number of teenage parents in education or training to rise as we move towards the raising of the participation age (to 18 in 2015), and the budget for Care to Learn is due to rise, to £44.7 million in 2014-15.

Teach First

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of graduates from each Russell Group university applied to the Teach First programme in each year since the programme's creation. [84264]

Mr Gibb: The following table shows the number of graduates (by cohort) applying to the Teach First programme from Russell Group universities, since the programme was founded.

We are not able to present these figures as a proportion of the total graduates from each university as requested, because the Department for Education does not collect data on the numbers graduating from individual universities.

University	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
University of Birmingham	31	24	14	24	63	67	94	148	164
University of Bristol	18	47	39	39	42	57	110	137	145
University of Cambridge	119	79	64	74	75	114	147	222	241
Cardiff University	20	16	5	11	10	31	42	65	86
University of Edinburgh	42	56	41	59	54	70	97	79	93
Imperial College London	67	50	52	36	52	36	79	106	90
King's College London	37	23	25	24	28	28	44	68	80
London School of Economics and Political Science	30	25	23	37	26	26	68	63	62
University College London	60	38	24	48	29	52	104	118	131
University of Leeds	33	27	27	54	46	60	94	172	267
University of Liverpool	12	12	5	11	14	20	46	85	123
University of Manchester	36	38	20	92	108	83	129	216	248
Newcastle University	19	12	9	22	20	27	51	105	90
University of Nottingham	56	51	44	44	74	123	152	194	189
University of Oxford	132	95	122	127	110	148	212	226	282
University of Sheffield	14	35	15	15	23	25	70	116	124
University of Southampton	14	9	5	7	8	8	17	42	55
University of Warwick	50	34	33	37	78	80	119	122	181
University of Glasgow	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	34	22
Queen's University Belfast	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	17	17

Teachers: E-mail Database

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how he obtained the private e-mail addresses of teachers who had not provided that information to his Department to e-mail them about changes to their pensions on 24 November 2011. [85363]

Mr Gibb: *[holding answer 7 December 2011]:* The e-mail addresses were obtained from the General Teaching Councils for England and Wales who shared the information under section 14 of the "Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998".

The data were reconciled by the administrator of the Teachers' Pension Scheme against e-mail addresses already held by them, on the Department's behalf, and that database was subsequently updated.

The reconciled e-mail address database was used to communicate with teachers regarding the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

Teachers: Training

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what is the greatest number of times a teacher trainee has had to re-sit the compulsory *(a)* literacy and *(b)* numeracy skills test required for Qualified Teacher Status in the last 10 years; [86260]

(2) how many teachers retook the compulsory *(a)* literacy and *(b)* numeracy skills test required for Qualified Teacher Status (i) once, (ii) twice, (iii) three times, (iv) four times, (v) five times, (vi) six times, (vii) seven times, (viii) eight times, (ix) nine times and (x) 10 or more times in the last year for which figures are available; [86329]

(3) how many teacher trainees who achieved Qualified Teacher Status had to re-sit the compulsory *(a)* literacy and *(b)* numeracy skills test, (i) once, (ii) twice, (iii) three times, (iv) four times and (v) five or more times in each of the last 10 years. [86330]

Mr Gibb: The greatest number of times an individual has re-sat skills tests required for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) over multiple years is unavailable from centrally held data. The available information includes only the greatest number of re-sits by an individual in a single year, which is the following:

(a) For literacy, 36 re-sits by a candidate in 2007/08

(b) For numeracy, 39 re-sits by a candidate in 2006/07

The number of teachers who re-sat the compulsory *(a)* literacy and *(b)* numeracy skills test required for QTS (i) once, (ii) twice, (iii) three times, (iv) four times, (v) five times, (vi) six times, (vii) seven times, (viii) eight times, (ix) nine times and (x) 10 or more times in 2009/10 can be found in Table A. These figures represent the latest year for which data are available.

Centrally held data do not currently allow the identification of the number of re-sits taken by teacher trainees who have also achieved QTS.

Table A: Number of teachers who retook the required QTS skills tests in 2009/10 by the number of times they were retaken

Skills test	Literacy	Numeracy
1 re-sit	4,140	3,120
2 re-sits	1,300	1,330
3 re-sits	540	700
4 re-sits	400	430
5 re-sits	130	250
6 re-sits	80	200
7 re-sits	60	120
8 re-sits	20	70
9 re-sits	30	60
10+ re-sits	40	160

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
TDA Specialist Website

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many letters he has received on funding for civil sector organisations within his Department's area of responsibility in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12 in each month since 1 June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [73988]

Tim Loughton: The information is not held in the format requested. Identification of the number of letters received regarding funding for civil sector organisations would incur disproportionate costs.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department is having with the Government of Sudan on fulfilling its international and domestic legal obligations to allow humanitarian access to civilians fleeing Sudanese armed forces aerial bombardment in Sudan and South Sudan. [86339]

Mr Bellingham: We are deeply concerned by the ongoing conflicts in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile State. During my visit to Sudan in July I made very clear to the Government of Sudan their responsibility to protect civilians and allow humanitarian access, and the British embassy in Khartoum takes every opportunity to reiterate these points. We condemn the Sudanese armed forces' indiscriminate aerial bombardments. We continue to make clear to the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement North that they must allow full humanitarian access to conflict affected areas immediately, and that there can be no military solution to their dispute. We hope that the Government of Sudan will take the opportunity of the planned visit of the UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs later this month to resolve this issue in accordance with international norms and agreements.

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the prospects for continuing insecurity along the border between Sudan and South Sudan of violence and human rights abuses and aerial bombardment in Blue Nile State and Darfur; and what steps he plans to take as a result of that assessment. [86340]

Mr Bellingham: We are greatly concerned at the continued insecurity along the Sudan and South Sudan border, as well as the violence in Blue Nile State. We urge both Governments quickly to resume discussions on the area to be covered by a safe demilitarized border zone, which they have already agreed to in principle, so that a border monitoring mission is able to deploy quickly. We strongly condemn unilateral, destabilising actions by any party.

The situation in Darfur continues to be of serious concern. The signing of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur in July this year was a positive step, but violence continues. We now must see that agreement implemented, and are encouraging the Government of Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement, the signatories to the agreement, to move forward with implementation, and pressing other rebel movements to join the peace process.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the stability of the National Congress Party in Sudan of *(a)* recent uprisings in the Arab world, *(b)* Sudan's economic situation, *(c)* youth and opposition protest movements in Sudan and *(d)* the rising cost of food in Sudan. [86341]

Mr Bellingham: Some of the factors that have contributed to recent changes in the Arab world, such as a lack of freedom of democratic expression, are also found in Sudan. We encourage the Government of Sudan to undertake a process of inclusive reform based on dialogue with all parts of society. We equally urge groups currently engaged in armed conflict to seek political reform through peaceful negotiation.

Following the South's secession, loss of oil revenue has reduced the ability of the Government of Sudan to respond to increasingly severe economic pressures, including the high food prices which have led to some popular protests. The efforts of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel to resolve outstanding issues between Sudan and South Sudan have our full support.

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to further the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan by *(a)* pursuing a political solution that involves devolution of power to all regions, *(b)* engaging with all opposition parties without duress and *(c)* other means. [86342]

Mr Bellingham: We share the assessment of the African Union Peace and Security Council, as set out in its 30 November communiqué, that there must be a comprehensive approach to achieving peace, justice and reconciliation in Sudan, taking into account the longstanding governance problems in Sudan, especially the challenge of governing a diverse country in an equitable manner. We urge all parties in Sudan to seek

such reform through peaceful negotiation and, in particular, the Government to open up a process of inclusive dialogue.

Syria: Politics and Government

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support he plans to provide to the Arab League in its efforts to bring an end to repression in Syria. [86076]

Alistair Burt: The British Government strongly support the Arab League in its efforts to increase the pressure on the Syrian regime to stop their violent repression.

We commend its leadership within the international community and its recent unprecedented decision to impose sanctions on the Syrian regime. The UK has been at the forefront of action in the EU to impose sanctions. These stand alongside those introduced by the Arab League.

We continue to support the Arab League's efforts and continue to work with partners in the international community to address the appalling situation in Syria.

TRANSPORT

Buses: Licensing

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans she has to bring forward proposals to change the powers of the traffic commissioners to make checks on applicants for passenger carrying vehicle licences; [85786]

(2) whether she plans to require passenger carrying vehicle (PCV) drivers to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check before a PCV licence can be granted; [85872]

(3) what steps she plans to take to check whether applicants for a passenger carrying vehicle licence have had a Hackney carriage or private hire licence refused or revoked by a local authority due to inappropriate behaviour. [85873]

Mike Penning: There are no plans to require passenger carrying vehicle (PCV) drivers to undergo a CRB check before a PCV licence can be granted, to alter the current application checking process or to change the existing powers of the traffic commissioners in respect of making checks for PCV licensing.

Capita

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts her Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each such contract. [84744]

Norman Baker: The Department of Transport has awarded 13 contracts to Capita since May 2010.

Department/agencies	*Purpose*	*Monetary value (£)*
DFT(c)	Programme Office Manager	64,500
	Programme Office Manager (extension 1)	79,000
	Programme Office Manager (extension 2)	12,190
	Interim Procurement Officer	35,400
DVLA	Vehicle Excise Duty and Continuous Insurance enforcement and includes vehicle immobilisation, removal, storage, disposal and enforcement notice issuing services[1]	144,280,000
HA	Project Support Framework (Consultancy) 2010-14—Type A Suppliers[2]	[3]0
	A595 Parton to Lillyhall Improvement, Construction Supervision Duties	59,769
	TOS Training Framework Contract—Consultancy/Other[3]	[3]0
	Project Support F/W: Areas 3, 6 and 8 Contract Document Preparation	324,522
	Project Support F/W: M40 J15 Commercial Consultancy Contract	150,000
	Project Support F/W: Lot 3 Asset Support Contract (Area 10) Procurement Support	104,702
	Project Support F/W: A14/A12 Copdock interchange and A14/A154 Dockspur roundabout improvements	722,555
	TOS Training Framework Contract—Mock Motorway Call-Off	23,946

[1] The monetary value is £144,280,000 over seven years (includes option to extend year on year after five years). There is no net worth as this is a new contract which only started on 7 November 2011

[2] Project Support Framework (Consultancy) 2010-14—Type A Suppliers: This a multi-award framework with a pre-tender estimated value of £385,000,000

[3] TOS Training Framework Contract—Consultancy/Other: This is a multi-award framework with a pre-tender estimated value of £7,628,000.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in her Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which her Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [82537]

Norman Baker: The following table records the number of internal audits completed during the period 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011 for the Department for Transport, its executive agencies, trading funds and non-departmental public bodies.

Internal audit reports by entity, 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011

Entity	*Total*
Department for Transport	73

Internal audit reports by entity, 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011

Entity	*Total*
British Transport Police Authority	[1]10
Directly Operated Railways Ltd	3
Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency	70
Driving Standards Agency	15
Government Car and Despatch Agency	7
High Speed Two Ltd	[2]2
Highways Agency	87
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	16
Passenger Focus	5
Renewable Fuels Agency	[3]5
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	25
Vehicle Certification Agency	8

[1] Includes internal audits conducted in the British Transport Police Force and the Authority.
[2] The status of HS2 Ltd changed during 2010-11, which included a new requirement for internal audit services. Consequently, a full cycle of audit activity was not conducted for 2010-11.
[3] RFA ceased to be a separate entity on 31 March 2011. Consequently, there is no audit activity in 2011-12.
Note:
The table covers internal audit activity only, and does not extend to compliance audits undertaken by quality assurance teams deployed in a number of agencies.

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether food and catering services in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards. [85862]

Norman Baker: Within the Department for Transport on-site catering facilities are only available at the Department's headquarters building, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) in Swansea and at the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) in Bedford. There are no specific plans to add calorie labelling to menus or display boards at the Department's headquarters building or at the DVLA.

The Driving Standards Agency's facilities management contractor, Interserve, are currently working with their suppliers to calculate the nutritional value of all foods. This will be presented on menus and display boards, where practicable, by mid 2012.

The Department cannot identify the nutritional value of food purchased under other arrangements including as part of external room hire or conference packages.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible are taking to ensure the countries of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85863]

Norman Baker: Within the Department for Transport on-site catering facilities are available only at the Department's headquarters building, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) in Swansea and at the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) in Bedford. There are no specific plans to add country of origin information to menus or display boards at the Department's headquarters building or at the DVLA.

The Driving Standards Agency's facilities management contractor, Interserve, does not currently include the requested information on menus and display boards; however they are working with their supplier to achieve this, where practicable, by mid-2012.

The Department cannot identify the country of origin of food purchased under other arrangements including as part of external room hire or conference packages.

Procurement

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for her Department in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate she has made of the cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for her Department in 2011-12. [73187]

Norman Baker: The cost of employing civil servants to undertake procurement for my Department and its Agencies was as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	10.26
2009-10	10.70
2010-11	9.68

The estimated cost of (i) employing civil servants and (ii) engaging consultants to undertake procurement for my Department and its Agencies in 2011-12 is:

(i) £8.20 million

(ii) £3.17 million

It should be noted that the figures for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 do not include consultancy spend, and so are not comparable with the combined 2011-12 figures.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports her Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [83004]

Norman Baker: The only data that are readily available from the central department DFT *(c)* is in relation to the number of different items produced in the period. This is broken down by: *(a)* leaflets = 100 *(b)* posters = 18 *(c)* reports = 33. However, I regret to say that further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if she will make a statement. [85664]

Norman Baker: The Department aims to take into account social value considerations during procurement if and where they are relevant to the requirement, where consideration is in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations and the European Treaty Principles of Equality

of Treatment, Transparency and Freedom of Movement and where they can be applied in a proportionate, non-discriminatory manner. Socio-economic considerations are appropriately reviewed in the pre-procurement phase when making project investment decisions.

The growth review considered the role of social value in contract award criteria. The review confirmed that value for money remained the overriding factor when awarding public sector contracts. Value for money assessments could and should include relevant socio-economic considerations where it was appropriate in delivering on certain contracts.

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which her Department is responsible; and if she will make a statement. [85711]

Norman Baker: The public bodies for which the Department for Transport is responsible all hold organisational risk registers. The only exception is the Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC), which is a relatively small non-departmental public body, with a primarily advisory role. The Department does however hold an information management risk register for DPTAC.

Departmental Secondment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what secondments there have been to her Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86140]

Norman Baker: For the central Department our records show that four people entered the Department on secondment since May 2010. Highways Agency Records show one person entered the agency on secondment since May 2010. Owing to the small number of individuals involved we are unable to provide further information as individuals could be identified.

Our Agencies—Driving Standards Agency, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Government Car and Despatch Agency, Vehicle Certification Agency and Vehicle and Operator Service Agency—do not have any secondments, and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency does not hold central records, so this information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85925]

Norman Baker: So far in the 2010-12 Session, Department for Transport Ministers have answered 3,031 ordinary written questions within 10 sitting days of tabling, 513 within 11 to 20 sitting days, none within 21 to 30 sitting days, and 29 more than 30 sitting days after tabling.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide this information to the committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Electric Vehicles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding her Department provides to assist the development of electric cars. [86242]

Norman Baker: The Government have made provision of over £400 million for measures to promote the uptake of ultra-low carbon vehicle technologies, including electric cars. These measures include support for consumer incentives, development of recharging infrastructure, and a programme of research, development and demonstration projects.

EU Fuel Quality Directive

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brighton, Pavilion of 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 649W, on EU fuel quality directive, what meetings Ministers in her Department had with non-governmental organisations to discuss the EU fuel quality directive. [86093]

Norman Baker: Department for Transport Ministers have had numerous meetings with a variety of national and international environmental and social non-governmental organisations to discuss the fuel quality directive, including:

Greenpeace;

Action Aid;

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds;

World Wide Fund for Nature; and

Friends of the Earth.

Ministers and officials will continue to meet with non-governmental organisations on this issue as necessary.

High Speed 2 Railway Line: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on constructing a tunnel through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as part of her proposed High Speed 2 scheme. [85767]

Justine Greening: No decisions have been taken yet. As I said in my statement, I have concluded that I should allow myself until early in 2012 to announce my decision in order to ensure this is based on careful consideration of all relevant factors.

Metal Theft

David Rutley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on reducing metal theft from *(a)* railways and *(b)* motorways. [81561]

Norman Baker: I have had a number of discussions with ministerial colleagues from the Home Office and other Departments about metal theft and options for tackling this. These discussions have covered the impact of theft on railways, motorways, and other transport modes, as well as other sectors of the economy.

We are examining as a matter of urgency not only whether there are additional steps we can take within existing legislation to crack down on theft, but also whether there may be a case for some proportionate additional regulation of the scrap metal industry, where much of the stolen material currently ends up.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), in his autumn statement on 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, announced that we will invest £5 million to set up a nationwide taskforce to target metal thieves and scrap metal dealers who illegally trade in stolen metal.

Motor Vehicles: Fuels

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to encourage increased fuel efficiency in new cars. [86245]

Norman Baker: The Government's Carbon Plan was published on 1 December 2011 and sets out our overall strategy for reducing carbon emissions, including in the transport sector where increased fuel efficiency of new cars (and vans) is a major policy focus. The Carbon Plan is available here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/publications/basket.aspx?filetype=4&filepath=11%2ftackling-climate-change%2fcarbon-plan%2f3702-the-carbon-plan-delivering-our-low-carbon-future.pdf#basket

The main policy levers for delivering improvements to new car efficiency are the EU new car CO_2 regulation; consumer information, including the new car fuel efficiency label; and fiscal levers which, while primarily aimed at securing the public finances, can help to reduce emissions. In addition, the uptake of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) will over time reduce the overall dependence of the fleet on fossil fuels and cut carbon emissions. As set out in the Carbon Plan in detail, Government have made provision for over £400 million support for ULEV uptake, covering consumer incentives, support for charging infrastructure trials and Research, Development and Demonstration.

Network Rail

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to her Department's Structural Reform Monthly Implementation Plan, what progress she has made on developing and publishing a sustainable railway strategy including reform of Network Rail. [86576]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement on this subject, laid before the House on 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 42WS.

Network Rail: Standards

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress Ministers in her Department have made on making Network Rail more accountable to its customers. [85801]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have a commitment to make Network Rail properly accountable to its customers.

On 15 November the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), announced her intention to publish early next year a Command Paper that sets out detailed proposals to deliver a sustainable and better value railway, including proposals affecting Network Rail.

Office of Rail Regulation

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to section 30 of the Coalition Agreement, what progress she has made in turning the Office of Rail Regulation into a powerful passenger champion. [85798]

Mrs Villiers: The Government and the Office of Rail Regulation will shortly consult on the scope to transfer and case for transferring certain powers and functions relating to the protection of passenger interests from the Department for Transport to the regulator.

Railway Stations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many railway stations she and her predecessor visited on departmental business in the last 12 months. [82954]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), and ministerial colleagues visit railway stations on a regular basis, whether as a specific visit or incidentally as part of ministerial travel.

Railways: Buckinghamshire

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects work on the east-west rail link between Oxford and Milton Keynes to *(a)* begin and *(b)* be completed. [85766]

Mrs Villiers: Work on the east-west rail link requires prior agreement of a appropriate local contribution to the cost of the project and confirmation of a satisfactory business case. If this is concluded in July 2012 as currently envisaged, the East West Rail Consortium proposes planning work to commence immediately, with physical work commencing in 2015 or earlier, and completion in 2017.

Railways: Electrification

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement that the Transpennine Express line will be electrified between Manchester and Leeds, whether her Department plans to request Network Rail to draw up a business case for the further electrification of that railway service between Middlesbrough station and the East Coast Main Line at Northallerton. [86368]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* I intend to ask Network Rail to establish the cost and whether there is a business case for electrification of the line between Northallerton and Middlesbrough.

Railways: Fares

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to section 30 of the coalition agreement on rail pricing, what steps her Department has taken in respect of its commitment to fair pricing for rail travel. [85825]

Mrs Villiers: This Government recognise the serious concern about rail fares—that is why we secured the funding to keep the increase in average regulated rail fares to an average of RPI+1% for 2012.

Railways: Mobile Phones

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it a condition of any new rail franchises that train operators must cooperate with mobile telephone operators to ensure improved mobile network coverage on trains. [84284]

Mrs Villiers: Bidders for new franchises will be expected to consider whether wi-fi and specific mobile telephone service provision should be continued or introduced on fleets or routes.

Railways: Standards

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consider inserting clauses into rail franchise agreements requiring companies to communicate effectively with passengers during times of disruption. [85800]

Mrs Villiers: Passengers should be able to expect consistently reliable and up-to-date information from train operating companies so that they can sensibly plan and make their journeys.

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has recently set out its intention to underpin the rail industry's initiatives for providing appropriate, accurate and timely information for passengers during disruption.

Further details can be found at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.10724

We are supportive of this approach to the issue.

Rescue Services

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the nature is of the activity to be carried out at coastguard coastal operations hubs; and how many new jobs she expects to be created at such hubs. [86363]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* A coastguard coastal operations hub will be located in each of the 18 coastal areas and will be the focus for the management of the volunteer coastguard rescue teams (CRTs) in that area. The hub will house a coastal operations team leader who will be responsible for, and lead, a team of four or five coastal safety officers who will be stationed throughout the area. Each coastal safety officer will be responsible for the management and training of four to five volunteer CRTs.

In some areas it may be practicable to house one or more of the coastal safety officers and a volunteer CRT at the hub.

The following table sets out the existing and proposed coastal operations arrangement. The increase in posts will be 25, spread across the 18 hubs.

Coastal operations

	Number
Existing	
Coastal Safety Manager	9
Sector Manager	64
Resilience Manager	3
Counter Pollution	3
London Manager	1
Total	80
Proposed	
Coastal Safety Managers	6
Coastal Operations Team Leaders	18
Coastal Safety Officers	78
Counter Pollution	3
Total	105

The figures do not include volunteers who make up the CRTs.

Rescue Services: Liverpool

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what coastguard operation activities she expects to be continued by the Maritime Coastguard Agency at its Liverpool site. [86362]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* The Maritime and Coastguard Agency site at Liverpool will continue to provide a maritime and coastal emergency response and co-ordination function until the closure of the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre. The volunteer coastguard rescue team; counter-pollution and salvage; survey and inspection; and the associated administrative functions currently carried out at the site will continue when the rescue co-ordination function ends.

In accordance with the ministerial announcement made on 22 November 2011, it is intended to establish one of the 18 coastal operations hubs at the Liverpool site.

Rescue Services: Wales

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes there have been in staffing levels at each coastguard station in Wales since May 2010. [86303]

Mike Penning: The following table shows the difference in full-time equivalent (FTE) employed at each Welsh Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) in May 2010 and October 2011.

Organisation	*1 May 2010*	*31 October 2011*	*FTE Change*
Holyhead MRCC	22.00	23.00	1.00
Milford Haven MRCC	24.00	23.00	-1.00
Swansea MRCC	27.00	22.00	-5.00
Grand total	73.00	68.00	-5.00

Road Traffic: Olympic Games 2012

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to her Department's Structural Reform Monthly Implementation Plan, what progress has been made on providing powers for improved traffic management procedures during the London 2012 Olympics. [86583]

Norman Baker: The Department's business plan contains a commitment to provide powers through DCMS's Olympics Bill for improved traffic management procedures during the Olympics by December 2011. I am pleased to confirm that the Bill has now completed its parliamentary stages, and will receive Royal Assent before the House rises for the Christmas recess. The relevant provisions will come into force two months later.

Roadworks

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to her Department's Structural Reform Monthly Implementation Plan, for what reason work on reforming management of roadworks to increase maximum penalty charges for works which overrun their agreed period has not been completed. [86577]

Norman Baker: We inherited plans to raise overrun charges to £25,000 per day from the previous Government. This Government are committed to reducing the burden of regulation on business, and we are examining the proposals to ensure they are proportionate and comply with better regulation principles. I expect to make an announcement early in the new year.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to her Department's Structural Reform Monthly Implementation Plan, what progress she has made on reforming management of roadworks to finalise regulations enabling new lane rental schemes. [86582]

Norman Baker: Our consultation on draft regulations and guidance about lane rental closed on 31 October and we are now working to finalise the proposals. I expect to make an announcement in the new year.

Swanland: North Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress the Marine Accident Investigation Branch has made on its investigation into the sinking of the Swanland near the North Wales coast; and when she expects its report to be published. [86092]

Mike Penning: Marine Accident Investigation Branch inspectors have been making good progress with their investigation of this tragic accident which has claimed six lives. They have interviewed the two survivors, as well as the master of a nearby ship that answered the mayday call. A number of interviews have also been conducted with involved parties including the coastguard, the search and rescue units, the ship's agent, and the local police, and these are ongoing. Excellent co-operation has also been received from representatives of the Cook Islands, which is the vessel's flag state.

The wreck of the vessel has been located and an underwater survey using remotely-operated vehicles will be conducted as soon as practicable.

MAIB's report is expected to be published in summer 2012.

Thameslink Railway Signals

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations her Department has received on signal failures on the Thameslink line north of London on 7, 11 and 23 November 2011. [85797]

Norman Baker: The Department has received three representations, two from the right hon. Member for Hitchin and Harpenden (Mr Lilley), and one from the hon. Member for St Albans (Mrs Main).

Transport: North-east England

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has for future investment in transport infrastructure in the north-east including on the *(a)* A1, *(b)* A66, *(c)* A19 and *(d)* Tyne tunnel. [86059]

Norman Baker: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced in his autumn statement on 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, a number of transport infrastructure investments which will benefit the north-east, including the electrification of the northern Transpennine rail route which will improve journey times and the reliability of services between Liverpool and Newcastle. In addition, the Chancellor announced the bringing forward of some of the £350 million funding allocated for the Tyne and Wear Metro Improvement Programme to 2011-12, reflecting the good progress which Nexus is making in its renewal programme.

On local transport, investment will continue to be made through integrated transport block which, for local authorities in the north-east, totals £129 million for the period 2011-12 to 2012-13—£87 million for highways maintenance and £42 million for small transport improvement schemes. This will be enhanced by the £50 million additional funding for all councils which

was announced in the autumn statement, recognising the vital role that transport plays in local economies. We have also recently given local authorities the opportunity to bid for a number of newly announced funds, including the third round of the green bus fund and the new better bus areas fund, which together amount to an additional £70 million worth of funding.

Local authorities in the north-east have also been successful in securing awards from the first round of the £560 million local sustainable transport fund. Redcar and Cleveland, Durham and Darlington councils and the Tyne and Wear ITA have secured investment totalling £12.5 million for sustainable transport schemes which will help support growth and cut carbon. The ITA and other local authorities in Tyne and Wear and Tees Valley are at an advanced stage of developing bids for investment from the second round of the fund, which the Department will consider in the new year.

Transport schemes in the north-east have also been successful in attracting support from the regional growth fund. Subject to due diligence, RGF awards will support a number of transport-related port developments as well as a scheme to significantly improve access to Newcastle station.

Tyne tunnel

The £260 million new Tyne tunnel opened in February this year after 28 months of construction. The old tunnel has been refurbished so that by the end of 2011, both tunnels will be open carrying two lanes of traffic in each direction, providing faster journey times at this key regional crossing. The £6 million refurbishment of the pedestrian tunnel is ongoing, enabling improved transport options for pedestrians and cyclists.

Highways

The 2010 comprehensive spending review detailed the Government's investment decisions for major road projects on the strategic road network, which included the A1 Leeming to Barton. An additional 18 schemes, including the A19 Testos and the A19/A1058 Coast road junction, were identified for delivery in future spending review periods, subject to statutory processes, value for money and affordability. There are no current plans for major investment on the A66.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information he has on the level of radioactivity of fly ash residue consequent upon burning wood in biomass power plants; what assessment he has made of the *(a)* locations and *(b)* mechanisms of its subsequent safe disposal; and if he will make a statement. [83033]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

The Environment Agency advises that levels of radioactivity in fly ash from the burning of uncontaminated wood are low; therefore no radiological assessments are necessary to ensure its safe disposal. Sites for the treatment and disposal of fly ash residue require a permit from the Environment Agency to ensure protection of the environment and human health.

Departmental Secondment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department are seconded from *(a)* private sector energy companies and *(b)* non-governmental organisations, charities and other voluntary organisations dealing with climate change and the environment. [85805]

Gregory Barker: There are currently 32 people who are seconded to the Department of Energy and Climate Change. The details of the organisations that they are seconded from and the business area that they are currently working in is shown as follows.

Organisation seconded from	*DECC group*	*DECC directorate*	*Number of people*
Bright Futures NZ Ltd	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Energy Markets and Networks	1
Cambridge University	Strategy and Evidence Group	CSA—Private Office and Director	1
Carbon Trust	Strategy and Evidence Group	Energy Innovation Policy	8
ConocoPhillips (UK) Ltd	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Energy Development	1
Deloitte LLP	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Energy Markets and Networks	1
Elexon Ltd	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Energy Markets and Networks	1
Energus	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Office for Nuclear Development	1
Energy People Ltd	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Energy Markets and Networks	1
Environment Agency	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Office for Nuclear Development	2
KPMG LLP	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Commercial	1
Living With Environmental Change (Fellowship Placement)	Strategy and Evidence Group	Science and Innovation	1
London Development Agency	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	Heat and Industry	1
Mount Wellington Mine Ltd	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	Heat and Industry	1
National Audit Office	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	Energy Efficiency Deployment Office	1
National Audit Office	Operations Group	Finance and Procurement	1
National Grid	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Energy Markets and Networks	1
National Grid	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	International, EU and Energy Security	1
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Office for Nuclear Development	1
Ofgem	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Energy Markets and Networks	1

Organisation seconded from	DECC group	DECC directorate	Number of people
Ofgem	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Office for Renewable Energy Deployment	2
Pinsent Mason LLP	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Office for Nuclear Development	2
Policy Studies Institute	Strategy and Evidence Group	Strategy Inc Committee on Climate Change	1
Rolls Royce	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	Office for Nuclear Development	1

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86136]

Gregory Barker: The details of the number of people who have been seconded to the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) since May 2010 are shown in the following table:

Organisation seconded from	Directorate	Group	Duration (years)
Bright Futures NZ Ltd	Energy Markets and Networks	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.76
ConocoPhillips (UK) Ltd	Energy Development	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	1.00
Costain Ltd	Office for Nuclear Development	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.18
Deloitte LLP	Energy Markets and Networks	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	1.64
EDF	Science and Innovation	Strategy and Evidence Group	0.48
Elexon Ltd	Energy Markets and Networks	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.25
Energus	Office for Nuclear Development	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.51
Energy People Ltd	Energy Markets and Networks	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	2.00
EnergySolutions	Office for Nuclear Development	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.89
Environment Agency	Office for Nuclear Development	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.50
Environment Agency	Office for Nuclear Development	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	3.92
Ernst and Young	Energy Markets and Networks	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.22
GEN II	Office for Nuclear Development	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.25
KPMG LLP	Commercial	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.50
Mount Wellington Mine Ltd	Heat and Industry	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	0.50
National Audit Office	Energy Efficiency Deployment Office	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	1.50
National Audit Office	Finance and Procurement	Operations Group	1.22
National Grid	Energy Markets and Networks	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.49
National Grid	Energy Strategy and Futures/Electricity Market Reform	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.74
National Grid	International, EU and Energy Security	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	2.00
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	Office for Nuclear Development	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	1.00
Office of Rail Regulation	Office for Renewable Energy Deployment	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	3.00
Ofgem	Office for Renewable Energy Deployment	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.06
Ofgem	Office for Renewable Energy Deployment	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.06
Ofgem	Office for Renewable Energy Deployment	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.08
Ofgem	Fuel Poverty and Smart Meters	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	0.52
Ofgem	Fuel Poverty and Smart Meters	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	0.63
Ofgem	Fuel Poverty and Smart Meters	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	0.83
Ofgem	Energy Markets and Networks	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	1.00
Ofgem	Fuel Poverty and Smart Meters	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	2.00
Ofgem	Fuel Poverty and Smart Meters	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	2.00
Ofgem	Fuel Poverty and Smart Meters	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	2.00
Ofgem	Fuel Poverty and Smart Meters	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	2.00
Ofgem	Fuel Poverty and Smart Meters	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	2.00
Ofgem	Fuel Poverty and Smart Meters	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	2.00
Ofgem	Green Deal	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	2.00
Ofgem	Green Deal	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	2.00

Organisation seconded from	Directorate	Group	Duration (years)
Ofgem	Green Deal	International Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	2.00
Pinsent Mason LLP	Office for Nuclear Development	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.67
Pinsent Mason LLP	Office for Nuclear Development	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.58
Policy Studies Institute	Strategy Inc Committee on Climate Change	Strategy and Evidence Group	0.67
Rolls-Royce	Office for Nuclear Development	Energy Markets and Infrastructure	0.50

The purpose of the secondment and whether it was to a policy development role is not held centrally. To obtain this information would incur a disproportionate cost.

Energy: Prices

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the effect on the cost of gas and electricity for each income decile of applying the Energy Company Obligation levy to energy bills on a sliding scale based on the amount of energy consumed rather than as a flat rate. [86484]

Gregory Barker: The ECO requires energy suppliers to achieve outcomes but primary powers do not include scope to specify how energy suppliers raise the funds required.

The assumption underlying the distributional analysis of the impact on energy bills presented in the Draft Impact Assessment is that the Energy Company Obligation levy is recouped by energy suppliers on a per household basis. However, Annex H of the Impact Assessment includes a qualitative assessment of the possible impacts of different approaches to the allocation of ECO targets. The assessment is available here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/green-deal/3603-green-deal-eco-ia.pdf

Fuel Poverty: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the level of fuel poverty in Birmingham. [86619]

Gregory Barker: In 2009, the most recent year for which data are available, an estimated 116,000 households, or 29% of the population, in Birmingham local authority were fuel poor.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of people living in fuel poverty in Birmingham. [86620]

Gregory Barker: The coalition Government are committed to tackling fuel poverty and supporting vulnerable consumers to heat their homes at an affordable cost.

The warm home discount scheme will provide over 600,000 of the poorest pensioners with a Core Group discount of £120 off their electricity bills this winter. Other low income vulnerable households may also be assisted through the scheme. Overall we expect 2 million low income vulnerable households a year to be assisted through the warm home discount scheme.

We continue to fund the Warm Front scheme, providing low income vulnerable households, living in energy inefficient properties, with energy efficient heating and insulation measures. Since 2005 Warm Front has assisted 42,719 households in Birmingham.

In addition, the Department for Work and Pensions provide pensioner households with winter fuel payments to help with additional heating costs during the winter. Cold weather payments are also made to low income and vulnerable households where there is an average temperature of 0°C or below for seven consecutive days. These payments have been permanently increased to £25 per week and in winter 2010-11 over 17 million cold weather payments were paid in Great Britain these were worth an estimated £430 million.

Natural Gas

Steve Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of homes do not have access to the gas network in *(a)* Winchester constituency and *(b)* England. [86444]

Charles Hendry: Data on the number of households by constituency without access to the gas network are not available.

An estimate of the number of households off the gas grid at Government Office region and national level can be derived using data from the English Housing Survey (EHS), produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). In 2009, based on the EHS, there were around 452,000 households in the South East that did not have access to the gas network. This represents around 13% of all households in that region. In England, around 2.9 million households did not have access to the gas network, representing around 13% of all households in England.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails his Department has received on gas security in the last 12 months. [86238]

Charles Hendry: We do not keep specific data on the number of letters and e-mails received on energy security matters. This means that the information requested cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails he has received on shale gas extraction in England in the last 12 months. [86240]

Charles Hendry: The Department's central register of correspondence does not list the specific addressee, but I can confirm that, during the last 12 months, DECC has responded to approximately 180 letters and e-mails relating to shale gas.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on shale gas and oil in Northern Ireland; [86254]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on shale gas and oil in Scotland. [86255]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers are in regular contact with the devolved Administrations across a wide range of issues.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* letters, *(b)* e-mails and *(c)* telephone calls his Department has received on shale oil and gas in the last 12 months. [86256]

Charles Hendry: The Department's correspondence unit has responded to approximately 180 letters and e-mails relating to shale gas in the last 12 months. As far as the number of e-mails or letters received on shale oil and gas received by individuals, this information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. No record of the subject of incoming telephone calls is held within the Department.

Fuel Poverty: Older People

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure elderly and vulnerable people do not suffer ill health or die as a result of severe weather in the winter of 2011-12. [86621]

Gregory Barker: The coalition Government are committed to tackling fuel poverty and supporting vulnerable consumers to heat their homes at an affordable cost.

This year is the first year of the mandatory Warm Home Discount scheme, which will provide over 600,000 of the poorest pensioners with a Core Group discount of £120 off their electricity bills this winter. Other low income vulnerable households may also be assisted through the scheme. Overall we expect 2 million low income vulnerable households a year to be assisted through the Warm Home Discount scheme.

We continue to fund the Warm Front scheme, providing low income vulnerable households, living in energy inefficient properties, with energy efficient heating and insulation measures. We are also requiring suppliers to provide energy efficiency measures to low income vulnerable households through the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, Super Priority Group.

In addition, the Department for Work and Pensions provide pensioner households with winter fuel payments to help with additional heating costs during the winter.

Cold weather payments are also made to low income and vulnerable households where there is an average temperature of 0°C or below for seven consecutive days. These payments have been permanently increased to £25 per week and in winter 2010-11 over 17 million cold weather payments were paid in Great Britain worth an estimated £430 million.

We are also working closely with the Department of Health on their cold weather plan, which aims to avoid the adverse health effects of winter by raising public awareness and triggering actions by those in contact with people most at risk. The plan sets out what needs to happen before and during periods of severe winter weather in England, and builds on established national and local campaigns for winter health with a more co-ordinated approach. The plan will work through a system of cold weather alerts, linked to the existing winter weather warning system developed by the Met Office, in operation from 1 November to 31 March.

Wind Power: Powys

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Powys county council and *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government on planning applications for wind farms in Powys. [85974]

Charles Hendry: The Department is currently dealing with six applications for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for wind farms in Powys ("the S36 applications") where Powys county council ("Powys CC") is the relevant planning authority for the purposes of that Act. Therefore the Department has regular communication with Powys CC to monitor the progress of the applications while it awaits Powys CC response to them. In particular, I have recently been in communication with Powys CC in connection with the deadline for their responses to the S36 applications.

The Welsh Government have been consulted on all of the S36 applications. Their representations in respect of the S36 applications will be taken into consideration when the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), makes his decision on them.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many of the 140 responders to the Government's consultation on the reform of air passenger duty who commented on the banding structure supported *(a)* the retention of a four-band structure, *(b)* a three-band structure and *(c)* a two band structure; [85903]

(2) how many of the 70 responders to the Government's consultation on the reform of air passenger duty who commented on class of travel supported *(a)* premium economy passengers to be liable for reduced rate and *(b)* premium economy passengers to remain liable for standard rate; [85942]

(3) how many of the 70 responders to the Government's consultation on the reform of air passenger duty who commented on class of travel supported seats with 40-inch seat pitch and less being liable for the reduced rate. [85943]

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many of the 140 responders to the Government's consultation on the reform of air passenger duty who commented on the banding structure supported *(a)* the retention of a four-band structure, *(b)* a three-band structure and *(c)* a two-band structure; [85976]

(2) how many of the 70 responders to the Government's consultation on the reform of air passenger duty who commented on class of travel called for seats with 40 inch seat pitch and less to be liable for the reduced rate. [86187]

Paul Maynard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the 140 responders to the Government's consultation on the reform of air passenger duty who commented on the banding structure called for *(a)* the retention of a four-band structure, *(b)* a three-band structure and *(c)* a two-band structure. [86183]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government decided not to change the air passenger duty (APD) bands as doing so would lead to an increase in APD for 91% of passengers. The APD consultation received 136 responses to the question on banding structure. Of this total, 77 supported a move to two distance bands, eight supported retaining the existing four-band structure and a further eight advocated moving to a three-band structure. A further 43 discussed the question and suggested other alternatives. Supporters of the two-band option argued that it would generate fewer anomalies and be simpler for passengers to understand and airlines to administer. Those in favour of the current four-bands or a system based on more distance bands argued that it would be fairer. However, there was no agreement on the composition of these bands.

The APD consultation received 70 responses to the question on class of travel. Of this total, 54 supported a reclassification of premium economy while 11 favoured retaining the existing rules. A further five respondents discussed the issue but offered no clear preference. Most of those who wanted premium economy to be taxed at the reduced rate advocated the use of a 40-inch seat pitch definition.

The Government considered this evidence carefully. A revenue neutral change to the current banding structure would have required those flying to band A and band B destinations (91% of passengers) to pay more. The Government therefore decided to retain the existing four APD distance bands.

It was clear from consultation responses on class of travel that premium economy products vary significantly between airlines. Any attempt to define premium economy for taxation purposes would increase the complexity of the tax, increasing the burdens for both industry and HMRC. A definition based on seat pitch would inevitably discriminate between similar products offered by different airlines.

Bank Levy

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of re-introducing a bank payroll tax; and if he will make a statement. [86027]

Mr Gauke: The bank payroll tax was introduced in the last Parliament as a one-off, interim measure ahead of changes in remuneration practices from corporate governance and regulatory reforms.

The Government have introduced a permanent bank levy to ensure that the banking sector makes a fair contribution to reflect the potential risk to the UK financial system and wider UK economy. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), recently announced an increase in the levy rate from 1 January 2012, with resulting revenues for the life of this Parliament expected to exceed £10 billion. The levy is expected to raise more every year from the banking sector than the net revenue from the one-off bank payroll tax.

Building Societies Act 1986

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has any plans to carry out a review of the Building Societies Act 1986; [86573]

(2) whether he has any plans to bring forward proposals to increase the deceased investors' limit as defined in the provisions of the Building Societies Act 1986; [86574]

(3) whether he has any plans to bring forward proposals to amend section *(a)* 9A and *(b)* 9B of the Building Societies Act 1986. [86575]

Mr Hoban: The Treasury keeps building societies legislation under review. The Government are committed to assessing whether changes are required to update building societies legislation. Amendments to section 9B of the Building Societies Act are being made as part of the Financial Services Bill that is currently undergoing pre-legislative scrutiny in Parliament.

Business: Solar Power

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what support the Government offer to banks holding loans by companies engaged in the solar panel business not to foreclose on these businesses. [84920]

Miss Chloe Smith *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The Government are not offering any specific support to banks holding loans by companies engaged in the solar panel business.

The Government are supporting lending to small and medium-sized businesses through:

a commitment announced on 9 February 2011 from the UK's biggest high street banks to lend £190 billion of new credit to businesses in 2011, with £76 billion of this lending to SMEs; and

a package of credit-easing measures announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on 29 November, comprising a National Loan Guarantee Scheme of up to £20 billion of guarantees for bank funding to lower the cost of loans to smaller businesses; and a new Business Finance Partnership, initially of £1 billion, to deliver additional finance to mid-sized businesses through non-bank lending channels.

Carbon Sequestration: Finance

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and *(b)* industry stakeholders on the reallocation of funding for carbon capture and storage. [84896]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers meet with a wide range of other Ministers and organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

The Government have already made clear that £1 billion is available to support the commercialisation of CCS.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide support for the development of a commercial-scale carbon capture and storage project in each year to 2015. [84975]

Miss Chloe Smith *[holding answer 7 December 2011]:* The Government have made clear that £1 billion remains available to support the commercialisation of carbon capture and storage (CCS). The final profile of spending on CCS will be determined when projects have come forward following the competition next year.

Cash Dispensing

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to require banks to provide unrestricted cash machine use for basic bank account holders. [86070]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to ensuring that individuals are able to access an appropriate range of financial products and services.

Decisions on the products and services offered by individual banks are a commercial matter for the institution concerned.

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards. [85844]

Miss Chloe Smith: HMT's catering subcontractor has no plans to introduce calorie labelling.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure the country of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85845]

Miss Chloe Smith: HMT's catering subcontractor does not currently show the country of origin of foods on their menus and display boards. However, the subcontractor is a member of the Red Tractor Scheme and all produce certified by the scheme is clearly labelled on display boards.

Child Benefit

David Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what support he plans to give to families who will be ineligible to receive child benefit following the introduction of his planned changes. [85889]

Miss Chloe Smith: Child benefit will be withdrawn from families including a higher rate taxpayer from January 2013. The policy will be administered through the tax system using existing systems and processes. Affected families are within the top 20% of the incomes of all families (including those without children). Currently the threshold for a higher rate taxpayer is around £42,500. At a time when many difficult decisions have to be taken, it is not fair that people on low incomes go on being taxed to pay for the child benefit of those earning much more.

Debit Cards and Credit Cards: Fees and Charges

John Thurso: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take following the Office of Fair Trading's recommendations on Which?'s super-complaint on retailers' surcharges for paying by credit or debit card; and if he will make a statement. [86455]

Mr Hoban: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 407W.

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84184]

Miss Chloe Smith: In accordance with the Government's Transparency agenda, HM Treasury's departmental organogram is available online at:

http://reference.data.gov.uk/gov-structure/organogram/?pubbod=hm-treasury&post=19678

This includes details of the number of people employed in communications roles.

The UK Debt Management Office currently employs two press officers; the roles take up approximately half of each of their time.

The Asset Protection Agency currently employs one individual with a communications remit.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1022W, on food, when his Department's current catering contract comes up for renewal; and whether the new contract will state that the Government's buying standards for food and catering must be met. [85962]

Miss Chloe Smith: HM Treasury's catering services at 1 HGR are supplied by a sub-contractor to the PFI provider. The contract expires in July 2014. HMT will ensure that the new contract references the Government's buying standards for food and catering as far as possible within the new contract.

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any senior staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85070]

Miss Chloe Smith: No senior staff in HM Treasury or its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85936]

Miss Chloe Smith: The full information requested is not available. In the current Session Treasury Ministers have responded substantively within 10 days to 3,484 of the 3,775 (92%) of ordinary written questions tabled to the Treasury.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide this information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Excise Duties: Gaming Machines

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the administrative burden on businesses in seaside towns of the introduction of machine games duty; [85802]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of machine games duty on domestic seaside tourism; [85803]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect of machine games duty on levels of investment in seaside towns by businesses. [85804]

Miss Chloe Smith: The latest assessment of the impact of machine games duty on individuals and businesses, as well as on administrative burdens faced by gaming machine operators, is available in the Tax Information and Impacts Note published on 6 December together with draft legislation for machine games duty. This publication is available online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/machine_games_duty.pdf

The detailed tax impact on, and within, specific gambling sectors will be estimated after MGD rates are set.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on machine games duty. [85806]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policy making process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Gift Aid

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to provide further incentives for use of the gift aid scheme. [86230]

Miss Chloe Smith: Budget 2011 announced a significant package of reforms to encourage charitable giving, including new measures on gift aid. These included raising the gift aid benefit limit from £500 to £2,500 and a gift aid small donations scheme, so that charities can claim a gift aid style payment when collecting small donations and where circumstances for collecting the necessary donor details are difficult. The Government are also committed to reducing the administrative burdens on charities through the introduction of an online filing system for making gift aid claims and supporting the charity sector in developing a gift aid database.

The Government keep all taxes and reliefs under review, and any changes are announced at Budget.

Inflation: Families

David Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to mitigate the effect on families of the current rate of inflation. [85886]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government are taking action to mitigate the effect on families of the current rate of inflation. In particular, the personal allowance for under-65s will increase faster than inflation to £8,105 in 2012-13. Working-age benefits will be uprated in line with September's CPI inflation rate of 5.2%, including the disability elements of tax credits and the child element of the child tax credit. The 3.02 pence per litre fuel duty increase that was due to take effect on 1 January 2012 will be deferred to 1 August 2012, and the inflation increase that was planned for 1 August 2012 will be cancelled. In addition, the Government have set aside an extra £675 million for local authorities in England who freeze or reduce their council tax in 2012-13.

PAYE

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will include small businesses in his pilot of real-time PAYE information. [86563]

Mr Gauke: The employers involved in the pilot are volunteers and have been chosen to be a representative group of organisations operating PAYE. They range in size and complexity from those with one employee to very large complex employers with many employees or pensioners. The group of pilot employers includes small employers.

Poverty: Children

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of his changes to child and working tax credits, child benefit and access to child care on *(a)* farming and *(b)* rural households; [85963]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of his changes to child and working tax credits, child benefit and access to child care on levels of rural poverty. [85964]

Miss Chloe Smith: The budget deficit inherited from the previous Government has meant that some very difficult choices have had to be made. The Government have been clear that they see reducing this deficit as their most urgent task. The June Budget 2010, the spending review 2010 and the autumn statement 2011 have made changes to tax credits, child benefit and child care to tackle the deficit in a fair way and ensure that spending is targeted at those who need it most.

Looking at the cumulative impact on households of tax, tax credit and benefit reforms introduced at this autumn statement and previous fiscal events, the top income decile sees the largest reduction in income, both in cash terms and as a percentage of net income.

The Government have not assessed the impact of these changes on particular occupations or geographical areas. However, the Government are committed to ensuring that rural residents, communities and businesses benefit fully and fairly from all of their policies and programmes. Rural communities are benefitting from a wide range of Government initiatives, including:

the £530 million that they are injecting into rolling out superfast broadband across the country;

the new approach to housing outlined in the recent Housing Strategy; and

a number of fuel poverty and energy efficiency measures, including Warm Front, feed-in tariffs and the renewable heat premium payment.

The Government have also recognised the particular needs and interests of rural populations through the Open Public Services White Paper, which has explicitly challenged Departments to find ways of ensuring fair access to services to people who live in rural areas; and the recent Rural Economy Growth Review, which announced a range of measures designed to help and encourage rural businesses to grow, including:

new Rural Growth Networks;

a new £100 million funding package; and

initiatives to promote the rural tourism and agri-food sectors.

Public Sector Debt

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the forecast trajectory of national debt in the final year of this Parliament. [86028]

Miss Chloe Smith: The independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has published its forecast for public sector net debt in its November 2011 "Economic and Fiscal Outlook", available on the OBR website.

Railways

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he gave to the inclusion of a high-speed rail link between Gatwick and Heathrow airports in his National Infrastructure Plan. [85357]

Danny Alexander: The National Infrastructure Plan 2011 sets out the Government plans to publish a consultation on their aviation strategy in March 2012. This will consider all the options for maintaining the UK's international aviation hub status, with the exception of a third runway at Heathrow.

Renewable Energy

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps he has taken to encourage growth in the renewable energy sector. [84930]

Miss Chloe Smith *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* The Government have taken a number of steps to encourage growth in the renewable energy sector in recent months, including:

announcing at Budget 2011 the introduction of a carbon price floor from 1 April 2013, targeting £30 a tonne of CO_2 in 2020, to support investment in low-carbon electricity generation;

launching of the Renewable Heat Incentive on 28 November this year to provide support for renewable heat;

publishing a White Paper in July setting out significant reform of electricity markets to support more investment in low carbon generation and flexible capacity to ensure secure supplies and tackle climate change;

launching of a consultation in October on changes to the support bands under the renewables obligation to bring forward 70 to 75 TWh of renewable electricity in the UK; and

intending to make investments in green infrastructure projects through the £3 billion made available for the Green Investment Bank from April 2012 and over the spending review period.

Renewable Energy: Feed-In Tariffs

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will have discussions with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on increasing the feed-in tariff rate for micro-combined heat and power to 15 pence per KWh. [85961]

Miss Chloe Smith: The comprehensive review of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme is considering all aspects of the scheme, including the level of support for each of the technologies supported. The first phase of the review, which was launched on 31 October, proposed changes to tariffs for solar photovoltaic installation.

The second phase of the review will consider the level of support for other FITs technologies, together with wider issues relating to the administration and implementation of the scheme. The Government are intending to publish a consultation on phase 2 of the review around the end of the year.

Tax Allowances: Individual Savings Accounts

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the annual revenue cost of the tax reliefs available on individual savings accounts; and if he will make a statement. [85973]

Mr Hoban: The latest published estimate of the annual revenue cost of tax reliefs available on individual savings accounts can be found on the HMRC National Statistics website in published Table 1.5 at the following link:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.pdf

Updated estimates are due to be published on 30 December 2011.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to review the control framework for DECC levy-funded spending. [84027]

Miss Chloe Smith: As set out in the 'Control framework for DECC levy-funded spending' published on the Treasury's website:

"the strong presumption will be that the cap will only be reviewed as part of a Spending Review. However, there may be exceptions to this, including if there are significant changes to the energy tax regime which have knock-on effects for DECC's policies which entail levy-funded spending."

Taxation: Olympic Games 2012

Ms Abbott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many types of tax exemption will be put in place for non-residents involved in the London 2012 Olympics; how many people will be afforded tax exemptions during the Games; what the thresholds are for the tax exemptions; and if he will make a statement. [86153]

Mr Gauke: The tax commitments required by the International Olympic Committee for non-residents involved in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games include exemptions for visiting athletes and certain persons temporarily entering the UK to carry out 'Olympic or Paralympic-related' business. Qualifying non-resident individuals will be exempt from any income tax arising from activities directly related to the London Games. Details of how the exemptions will work in practice can be found here:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/2012games/tax-exemptions/index.htm

The Government are unable to estimate the number of individuals to whom these exemptions will apply.

There are no thresholds for these exemptions.

VAT

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the rise in VAT on consumer confidence. [86026]

Mr Gauke: Sustainable public finances are essential for consumer confidence.

Decisive action taken by the Government in the comprehensive spending review and June 2010 Budget, including the increase in VAT, put the public finances and Government spending on a sustainable footing. This has prevented the turmoil seen in other countries' sovereign debt markets spreading to the UK and undermining confidence and the recovery in the private sector.

VAT: Business

Laura Sandys: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average length of time was for HM Revenue and Customs to reimburse VAT to small businesses between 1997 and 2011. [85879]

Mr Gauke: From 2007-11, the average length of time for HM Revenue and Customs to reimburse value added tax is shown in the following table.

	Percentage of correct VAT returns repaid within target (10 days)	*Average number of working days taken to repay from date return received*
2007-08	91.91	10
2008-09	92.09	10
2009-10	93.36	5
2010-11	91.79	4
2011-12 (until November 2011)	91.04	3

Information by business size and for the year 1997 to 2006-07 is not available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

VAT: Energy

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the increase in VAT receipts arising from the increase in energy bills. [85781]

Mr Gauke: No direct estimate has been made. However, if expenditure on domestic fuel was funded by less spending on goods and services that attract the 20% standard rate of VAT, HMRC would receive less VAT revenue, since domestic fuel and power is taxed at the reduced rate of 5%.

In its 2011 November Economic and Fiscal Outlook the OBR assumes that higher utility prices will result in a lower share of expenditure which is subject to VAT at the standard rate of 20% in future years.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards. [85832]

Chris Grayling: *(a)* Since 1998 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) occupies the majority of its accommodation under a private finance Initiative (PFI) known as the Prime contract. Under the terms of this PFI the Department leases back fully serviced accommodation from its private sector partner Telereal Trillium. This covers a variety of facilities including, where appropriate, the provision of catering services which is delivered through Telereal Trillium's service partner Compass Group UK. Compass undertakes all catering related activity.

In line with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs guidance, DWP reports on how the Government Buying Standards (GBS) criteria are being

met. This will feature in periodic updates on the DWP public website—the following link gives details:

www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/gbs-food-catering.pdf

This link advises on DWP's commitment and that we are working closely with Telereal Trillium/Compass to maximize compliance with this commitment. One of the best practice GBS criteria, which will feature in future updates on the public website, is around calorie labelling on menus. Compass has indicated that they have implemented full Guideline Daily Amount (GDA) labelling on menus, which includes calorific values, into the DWP HQ site at Caxton House, London and will be rolling out GDA labelling across all other DWP sites between January and July 2012.

(b) Non-departmental public bodies that share accommodation with the DWP on Prime contract sites are included in the response at *(a)* above. For those NDPBs not covered by the PRIME contract, none have responsibility for catering arrangements, e.g. the Pension Advisory Service and the Independent Living Fund (ILF) only occasionally buy food and snacks on an ad hoc basis in small quantities from local food retailers. Remploy no longer has a catering business. Their canteens are operated by local third party organisations. The Health and Safety Executive's HQ at Bootle has a similar PFI contract to DWP, covering accommodation and all services. HSE has no direct management responsibility for the caterers. However, menus here include a healthy (reduced calorie) option and a vegetarian option. All non-departmental public bodies are aware of the Government Buying Standards.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure the country of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85833]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Since 1998 the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) occupies the majority of its accommodation under a private finance initiative (PFI) known as the Prime contract. Under the terms of this PFI the Department leases back fully serviced accommodation from its private sector partner Telereal Trillium. This covers a variety of facilities including, where appropriate, the provision of catering services which is delivered through Telereal Trillium's service partner Compass Group UK. Compass undertakes all catering related activity.

In line with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs guidance, DWP reports on how the Government Buying Standards (GBS) criteria are being met. This will feature in periodic updates on the DWP public website—the following link gives details:

www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/gbs-food-catering.pdf

This link advises on DWP's commitment and that we are working closely with Telereal Trillium/Compass to maximize compliance with this commitment. One of the GBS criteria, which will feature in future updates on the public website, is around indicating the country of origin of meat, meat products and dairy products. Country of origin information is currently published on menus in the Caxton House, London site and Compass aims to provide this information on menus in the remainder of DWP sites by June 2012. In the meantime this information is available on request.

(b) Non-departmental public bodies that share accommodation with the DWP on Prime contract sites are included in the response at *(a)* above. For those NDPBs not covered by the Prime contract, none have responsibility for catering arrangements, e.g. the Pension Advisory Service and the Independent Living Fund (ILF) only occasionally buy food and snacks on an ad hoc basis in small quantities from local food retailers. Remploy no longer has a catering business. Their canteens are operated by local third party organisations. The Health and Safety Executive's HQ at Bootle has a similar PFI contract to DWP, covering accommodation and all services. HSE has no direct management responsibility for the caterers. HSE's caterer sources ingredients from suppliers who are committed to using British food sources whenever possible. However, they do not consistently advise on food country of origin but signage does advise customers of British bacon, eggs and meat. All non-departmental public bodies are aware of the Government Buying Standards.

Departmental Publicity

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what public information advertising campaigns his Department ran in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2011-12 to date; and what the cost was of each such campaign. [86071]

Chris Grayling: The following figures are public information campaign costs across the Department for each financial year, including research, design, print and advertising.

	Campaign	*£*
2008-09	Find Your Way Back to Work	3,014,757
	Lone Parents	99,493
	Jobsearch Channels	25,965
	Pension Working Age Communications	230,000
	Pension Credit	870,000
	Winter Fuel	280,000
	Benefit Fraud	5,800,000
	Personal Best (a campaign to promote the range of training opportunities linked to volunteering for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.)	50,261
		10,370,476
2009-10	Find Your Way Back to Work	6,958,000
	Pension Working Age Communications	5,970,000
	Pension Credit	1,190,000
	Winter Fuel	230,000
	Benefit Fraud	4,800,000
	Fit Note (informing employers, public and GPs of changes to the 'sick note' from April 2010)	163,735
		[1]9,311,735
2010-11	Pension Working Age Communications	1,260,000
	Benefit Fraud	20,000

	Campaign	£
		[2]1,280,000
2011 to 31 October 2011	Pension Working Age Communications	[3]140,000

[1] 86% increase on 2008-09.
[2] 93% decrease on 2009-10.
[3] 81% decrease on 2010-11.

Departmental Secondment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86135]

Chris Grayling: An inward secondment occurs when an individual is temporarily assigned from an outside organisation (not covered by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme) into the Department. Secondees into our Department are not recorded on our personnel computer system and therefore details are not held centrally; as a consequence this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day received a substantive answer within five working days in each of the last six months. [85050]

Chris Grayling: In the six months to 30 November 2010, the Department answered 449 written questions for answer on a named day, of which 441 (98%) received a substantive answer within five working days. The monthly breakdown is in the following table:

Month	Number of named day questions answered	Number of named day questions answered within 5 working days	Proportion of named day questions answered within 5 working days (percentage)
June 2010	117	112	96
July 2010	73	73	100
August 2010	0	0	—
September 2010	43	42	98
October 2010	97	97	100
November 2010	119	117	98

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Employers' Liability: Personal Injury

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of trends in the number of employer liability personal injury cases in the last five years. [86104]

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of trends in the number of employer liability personal injury cases in the last five years. [86109]

Chris Grayling: The information is tabled as follows:

	Employer liability		
Financial year	Accident	Disease	Number Total
2006-07	70,783	27,695	98,478
2007-08	68,497	18,701	87,198
2008-09	72,342	14,615	86,957
2009-10	65,450	13,294	78,744
2010-11	66,142	15,328	81,470

The table reflects the volume of employment claims registered with the Compensation Recovery Unit (CRU) between the periods 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2011. The data are broken down by accident and disease claims and financial year.

Information from compensation claims registered by compensators with the CRU is provided on the DWP internet site accessible through Directgov Performance and Statistics—DWP. This information may be used by appropriate parties, including the insurance industry, to examine any trends for compensation claims that are made with insurance companies. Therefore, the CRU information on Directgov provides statistics to allow trends to be assessed by interested parties such as the insurance industry. The CRU itself does not undertake any specific trend analysis as the role of the unit is to register claims for compensation, ensure that double compensation does not occur and recover relevant monies from compensators.

Employment Schemes

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on work experience placements in each month since January 2011. [85533]

Chris Grayling: With work experience, there are no direct costs to Government—places are provided by employers on a voluntary basis. However, organising and administering the placements does require resources, and Jobcentre Plus meets reasonable travel and child care costs while the participant is undertaking work experience.

This Government have already agreed funding to allow the Department to put in place 100,000 placements over two years.

In our autumn statement, we announced plans to introduce a new Youth Contract in 2012. A range of additional help for unemployed young people, worth nearly £1 billion will include provision for an extra 250,000 work experience or sector-based work academy places over the next three years. This will ensure that

there is an offer of a work experience place for every 18 to 24-year-old who wants one, before they enter the Work programme.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which firms in *(a)* the east midlands and *(b)* Leicester City are participating in his work experience programme. [85784]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus works with a wide range of organisations in Leicester City, and across the east midlands, to provide suitable work experience opportunities. A list of those organisations has been placed in the Library.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether it is the case that his Department confirms whether a Work programme participant is in work and that their prime provider is entitled to a job outcome payment; and if he will make a statement. [86562]

Chris Grayling: Work programme providers receive job outcome payments when the person they have helped into work has stayed in work for three months—or six months if they are long-term JSA claimants.

DWP requires providers to confirm employment details when participants find work, including information about the employment and the employer contact details. This enables the Department to conduct an off-benefit check and verify any job outcomes claimed by the provider.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of young people participating in the work experience scheme moved from work experience placements into work in each month since January 2011. [85534]

Chris Grayling: This information is currently unavailable. However, recent early analysis, based on a sample of 1,300 participants, indicates that less than half of participants are claiming working age benefits after 13 weeks of starting a work experience placement.

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the off-flow rate has been of young people who *(a)* have and *(b)* have not undertaken work experience placements since January 2011 from benefits into work. [85537]

Chris Grayling: The available statistics on work experience participants were published on 9 November 2011. These show that 51% of those who started on the programme in January to March 2011 were not in receipt of benefit 13 weeks later.

Independent Living Fund

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will carry out an impact assessment on the effect on *(a)* disabled people and their families and *(b)* local authorities of his decision to close the Independent Living Fund to new applicants. [85545]

Maria Miller: The Independent Living Fund is a discretionary trust and payments from the fund are discretionary awards, not statutory benefits. These payments do not take precedence over the responsibility of the local authority to make an assessment of a disabled person's needs. Local authorities retain primary responsibility for the care of disabled people and as part of this responsibility, they need to consider the requirements of people who may otherwise have received an additional package from the Independent Living Fund.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which disability organisations he is consulting on his plans for the Independent Living Fund. [85546]

Maria Miller: As announced in the written ministerial statement of 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 8WS, the consultation on how best to support the needs of current users of the Independent Living Fund beyond the end of this parliament will be launched in spring 2012. We have committed to consulting with disabled people, the current users of the fund and their families, local authorities, the devolved Administrations and other interested parties, including any disability organisations who wish to participate. All views and suggestions received during the consultation period will be carefully considered.

A full list of the organisations who contributed to the consultation will be published in the Government response.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Prisoners

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what reports he has received of prisoners claiming jobseeker's allowance while in custody. [86038]

Chris Grayling: People are not entitled to jobseeker's allowance (JSA) when they are in prison. There are safeguards in place to prevent the continued payment of benefit for individuals who are sent to prison. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) general matching service (GMS) performs a data match of what is held on both prison and DWP systems for all newly convicted prisoners, and will identify those who are in receipt of a DWP benefit. This will generate a report prompting closure of the claim and final payment of any benefit due up to the point of them entering custody. DWP does not routinely collect information of JSA claims closed in these circumstances.

The GMS scan will compare basic information such as a person's name and date of birth across prison and DWP systems. In a small minority of cases, where a prisoner has used an alias or where there are several prisoners with the same name, GMS might not identify their claim. Therefore, to mitigate this risk, Jobcentre Plus employment and benefit advisers (EBAs) who are based in prisons also receive a list of all those entering custody and are able to check both prison and DWP systems to ensure that any claims to benefit have been closed.

PAYE

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how his Department will be involved in HM Revenue and Customs' pilot of real time PAYE information. [86564]

Chris Grayling: DWP and HMRC are working closely to agree shared objectives for the pilot of PAYE real time information. DWP are represented on the HMRC real time PAYE information pilot steering group and will receive regular updates on progress.

Pensions: Females

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of full-time female employees are members of a pension scheme. [86376]

Steve Webb: In 2010, 59% of full-time female employees in Great Britain were members of an occupational pension scheme. This compares with 54% of full-time male employees in Great Britain who were members of an occupational pension scheme.

Remploy: Mental Health

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what minimum standards his Department has specified in relation to qualifications and experience of frontline advisers in his Department's contract with Remploy for mental health support services for access to work customers; and if he will make a statement. [85495]

Maria Miller: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), set and published the minimum standards required for the Mental Health Support Service Contract within the Invitation to Tender Documentation as:

> Use an appropriately trained professional(s) with a minimum of 2 years relevant background and experience of working with people with mental health issues in a vocational setting. The contractors shall provide and fund continuing professional development at their own cost for their staff and it shall not interfere with or interrupt the contractor's obligations and delivery.

Sick Leave

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department is undertaking into the causes of sickness absence from work. [85758]

Chris Grayling: The Department carried out a representative survey of over 2,000 employers in 2010 on health and well-being at work. This looked at the causes of short-, medium- and long-term sickness absence from work. The findings can be found in the Department research report number 750.

The Department has also commissioned a number of research projects to evaluate the statement of fitness for work or fit notes. Two of these projects (an employee survey and a project involving the collection of fit note data) will examine causes of sickness absence from work where a fit note was issued.

The Department commissioned an independent review of sickness absence earlier in the year which reported in November. This examined the current system of sickness certification and its effectiveness. The reviewers, Dame Carol Black and David Frost, made a number of recommendations which the Government will consider in the response to the review next year.

Social Security Benefits: Birmingham

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure his Department has incurred on *(a)* benefits, by benefit and *(b)* administration costs in Birmingham, for the latest financial year for which figures are available. [85541]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) Benefit by benefit expenditure for Birmingham for 2010-11 is shown in the following table, where estimates are available.

Benefit expenditure for Birmingham, 2010-11

	£ million
Attendance Allowance	93.3
Bereavement Benefit/Widow's Benefit	9.8
Carer's Allowance	42.5
Disability Living Allowance	231.1
Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance	110.8
Income Support	214.0
Jobseeker's Allowance	153.6
Pension Credit	199.3
State Pension	875.1
Winter Fuel Payments	38.6
Employment and Support Allowance	46.8
Housing Benefit	469.2
Council Tax Benefit	103.7
Total expenditure	2,587.9

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest 100,000.
Source:
DWP statistical and accounting data, and local authority subsidy returns.

(b) The cost of administering benefits for Birmingham residents is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of levels of benefit fraud in Great Yarmouth constituency in each year since 2006. [86377]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful prosecutions for benefit fraud have been made in Great Yarmouth constituency in each year since 2006; and what sum was involved in each such case. [86378]

Chris Grayling: Prosecution data specific to your Great Yarmouth constituency is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has undertaken together with GPs to evaluate the effectiveness of fit notes; what the findings of such research were; and if he will make a statement. [85762]

Chris Grayling: The Department has and continues to carry out research with GPs to evaluate the statement of fitness for work. The research includes:

a representative survey of 1,400 GPs;

in-depth qualitative interviews with 45 GPs from different locations and practice sizes, and with different personal characteristics; and

a study involving the collection of fit note data from a small number of GP practices for comparison with sick note data to examine effectiveness.

The first two projects have published their findings. These can be found in the Department's research reports numbers 733 and 780.

Social Security Benefits: Students

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what benefits are available to students with a long-term illness or disability *(a)* in full-time, *(b)* in part-time education and *(c)* who have suspended their studies; [85270]

(2) what benefits are available to students with a long-term illness or disability who have *(a)* drawn and *(b)* not drawn on their student loan. [85271]

Maria Miller: Students in full-time education are not normally eligible for social security benefits as they should be supported by the higher education system. The Government have no plans for allowing exceptions to these rules in respect of students.

When a student becomes too seriously ill to continue their course and, with the agreement of their university or college authority, suspends their studies, they may apply for employment and support allowance, subject to the qualifying conditions. If they have drawn down their loan it will be treated as income for the quarter it was meant to cover when assessing a claim to a means tested benefit. If the loan has not been drawn down it will not be treated as income in the benefit claim.

Students in part-time education may qualify for jobseeker's allowance or income support if they meet the conditions for claiming either of those benefits.

Full-time and part-time students receiving disability living allowance may receive income-related employment and support allowance provided they meet the conditions of entitlement.

Statistics Authority

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between his Department and the UK Statistics Authority between May 2010 and November 2011. [85531]

Chris Grayling: Correspondence between the UK Statistics Authority and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), is published on the authority's website and has been placed in the Library:

http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/index.html

Other official correspondence not previously published between the head of profession and the UK Statistics Authority has also been placed in the Library.

Statutory Sick Pay

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of fit notes in assisting people to make a phased return to work. [85760]

Chris Grayling: The Department has a programme of work to evaluate the statement of fitness for work or fit notes. Independent research carried out for the Department published earlier in the year found that 70% of GPs agreed that the fit note had helped their patients make a phased return to work.

A separate piece of research involving in-depth interviews with 45 GPs from different locations and practice sizes conducted for the Department found many GPs believe that patients with conditions that are compatible with phased returns can return to work sooner than they could have done under the previous certification system. Conditions that they found to be highly compatible with phased returns included myalgic encephalomyelitis or ME (often referred to as chronic fatigue syndrome), common mental health conditions and musculoskeletal problems. Phased return, for example two or three days a week, can be used to build patient confidence and eventually enable a full return leading to positive health outcomes for these patients through having the opportunity to work. Some GPs did note, however, that they perceived that smaller companies may be limited in the number of alternative roles that they can offer employees during the course of a phased return.

The Department will continue to examine the effectiveness of fit notes in assisting people to make a phased return to work through:

in-depth interviews with employers and employees (to be published early next year);

a representative survey of employees (to be published at the end of next year); and

a comparative study of fit and sick notes (to be published in 2013).

Universal Credit

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to discuss with representatives of Bacs Payment Schemes Ltd mechanisms whereby rent payments in the universal credit could be paid immediately and automatically to housing associations as soon as credits are made into a claimant's account. [86560]

Chris Grayling: The assumption will be for universal credit to be paid directly into claimants' bank accounts every month. The Department is exploring budget support mechanisms for claimants.

Vocational Training

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely take-up by businesses of the job subsidies announced in the autumn statement. [85679]

Chris Grayling: As part of the Youth Contract, we are making available 160,000 wage incentive payments worth £2,275 each, for employers who recruit an 18 to 24-year-old from the Work programme.

We are designing the detail of the Youth Contract measures, including how wage incentives payments will be made, in partnership with employers, providers and experts from the private, public and voluntary sectors to ensure that they are effective.

Welfare Reform Bill

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to his contribution of 15 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 879, on the Welfare Reform Bill, if he will reject Professor Harrington's recommendation to end the exemption from the work capability assessment for cancer patients receiving chemotherapy in hospitals. [86558]

Chris Grayling: Professor Harrington and Macmillan Cancer Support have provided evidence to me that we should make changes to the assessment of individuals suffering from cancer.

The evidence provided clearly shows that there is no longer a basis for differentiating between most types of cancer treatment (such as oral or intravenous chemotherapy). But the evidence also shows that there is considerable individual variation in terms of the impact of treatment on each claimant and that work can be very important for some individuals with cancer.

As a result the Department has drawn up proposals, supported by Professor Harrington, to improve the assessment. These would increase the number of individuals receiving treatment for cancer being placed in the Support Group while also reducing the number of people who would have to go through a face-to-face assessment. At the same time, individuals who wanted to return to work would be supported to do so.

We are disappointed Macmillan have been unable to support these proposals developed based on the evidence they submitted. We had hoped to introduce them in April 2012, but we are now seeking a wider range of views from cancer specialists, cancer sufferers and employers through an informal consultation. Ministers will not reach a final decision until the outcome of the consultation is known.

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether it is his policy that following enactment of the Welfare Reform Bill, people over the age of 65 currently receiving disability living allowance (DLA) will not be reassessed for personal independence payment and will continue to receive DLA. [86559]

Maria Miller: Personal independence payment will replace disability living allowance for working-age (16 to 64) adults from 2013. We want to build on the experience of developing an assessment and applying it to new and existing claimants of working age to inform our decisions about the arrangements for current disability living allowance recipients who are over the age of 65. Therefore we will not extend personal independence payment to people over the age of 65 already receiving DLA, until we have had an opportunity to consider the effectiveness of the new arrangements for working age people.

Winter Fuel Payments

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of the cost of means-testing winter fuel allowance payments. [85240]

Steve Webb: Means-testing winter fuel payments would significantly increase administrative costs, but it is likely that these would be more than offset by decreased benefit expenditure. For example, if the payments were to be made only to those in receipt of pension credit the benefit expenditure would be £600 million in 2012-13. With current entitlement conditions benefit expenditure on winter fuel payments is forecast to be £2,100 million in 2012-13.

Note:

All figures rounded to the nearest £100 million.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Serious Fraud Office

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Attorney-General how many cases were investigated by the Serious Fraud Office in 2010-11; how many resulted in charges being brought; and how many cases in which charges were brought *(a)* were settled and *(b)* resulted in a successful prosecution. [84551]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office investigates and prosecutes the most serious and complex economic crime. At any given time in 2010-11 the SFO was investigating around 100 cases including those at the earliest stages of investigation (to see if they were appropriate for the SFO to take on), and cases that had been to trial but where proceeds of crime issues were being pursued.

Because of their complexity, it can take a number of years to investigate cases, get them through the court system and bring them to conclusion. Outcomes from the work and effort put into cases are sometimes not seen until many months later. Cases investigated in 2010-11 therefore may not have been charged or have gone to trial within the same period.

The 17 cases prosecuted in 2010-11 involved 31 defendants. Of these, 26 defendants were convicted and five defendants were acquitted, giving a trial conviction rate of 84%. In every case that went to trial at least one defendant was convicted.

	2010-11 (number)
Average number of active cases	103
Cases where charges have been brought[1]	36
Cases successfully concluded and leading to prosecutions	17
Cases settled by civil recovery	1

[1] The figure relates the number of cases that at the end of the financial year were either awaiting trial, where the trial was part heard, or where the trial had concluded. In all these cases charges will have been brought against the defendants but not necessarily during 2010-11.

JUSTICE

Court Proceedings: Broadcasting

20. **Andrew Bridgen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to permit the broadcasting of court proceedings. [86117]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: We are planning to legislate, as soon as parliamentary time allows to remove the ban on cameras in courts, subject to certain safeguards, and we are working closely with the Lord Chief Justice on achieving this. Initially, we will allow judgments in the Court of Appeal to be broadcast for the first time, and will expand this to the Crown court in due course. We will not allow filming of juries, victims and witnesses under any circumstances.

Law Centres

21. **Paul Blomfield:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what future support he plans to provide to law centres. [86118]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not provide direct support for law centres. However, law centres are able to bid for contracts issued by the Legal Services Commission to provide legal aid services in specified areas of law and will continue to be able to do so in the future.

The Ministry of Justice is also working closely with the Cabinet Office to support the cross-government review into the funding of the Not-for Profit sector announced on 21 November.

County Courts

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with which organisations his Department had discussions on the subject matter of its consultation on solving disputes in the county courts *(a)* before and *(b)* after the consultation closed. [86155]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer given on 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 190W. The Department has engaged in discussions with the following organisations during the course of this year:

Association of British Insurers
Civil Mediation Council
Forum of Insurance Lawyers
Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
Motor Accident Solicitors Society
The Law Society
The British Bankers Association
Citizens Advice
Her Majesties' Association of District Judges
R3 (Association of Business Recovery Professionals)
Civil Courts Users Association
Office of Fair Trade
Shergroup
The Land Registry
Centre for Peaceful Solutions and Brent Mediation Centre
Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution
Law Works Mediation
National Health Service Litigation Authority
Medical Protection Society
Weightmans Solicitors.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he expects to publish his Department's response to its consultation on solving disputes in the county courts; [86156]

(2) what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the Government's response to the consultation on solving disputes in the county courts; [86157]

(3) when he expects the Government's response to his Department's consultation on solving disputes in the county courts to be published. [86158]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the right hon. Member to my previous answer given on 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 190W. The Government expect the consultation response to be published in the new year. The response was initially scheduled for publication in October but this was postponed due to ongoing discussions within Government.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many submissions his Department received to its consultation on solving disputes in the county courts. [86159]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the right hon. Member to my previous answer given on 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 190W. The Department received 319 responses to the consultation.

Legal Opinion: Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times his Department has instructed 1 Brick Court in each year between 2006 and 2011; and how much his Department paid to 1 Brick Court on each such occasion. [86569]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not keep a central record of the number of times it instructs particular chambers. However on inquiry the Department is aware of one occasion in which 1 Brick Court chambers was instructed over this period. The cost to the Department was £8,084 (inclusive of VAT).

Crime Prevention: Training

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to his Department was of providing behaviour-related courses for offenders convicted of *(a)* violent crimes and *(b)* sexual offences in each of the last five years. [86317]

Mr Blunt: The cost of providing behaviour-related courses for offenders convicted of *(a)* violent crimes and *(b)* sexual offences are not collated centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by obtaining highly complex information held on offender files or in local and national data systems, validating it, collating it in a common format and then calculating the overall costs in order to provide a response.

Crimes of Violence: Sexual Offences

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many defendants charged with *(a)* violent and *(b)* sexual offences have committed offences or been charged with committing further offences while on bail in the last three years. [86311]

Mr Blunt: Data are not held centrally on the number of offences committed during the bail period by people who have been charged.

Annual court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in spring, 2012.

Consultants

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Offender Management Service spent on external consultants in each of the last three years. [86603]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice (excluding the National Offender Management Service) has spent the following on external consultants in each of the last three years:

November to October each year	*Spend (net) (£)*
2008-09	38,403,327
2009-10	21,651,659
2010-11	11,333,398

The National Offender Management Service has spent the following on external consultants in each of the last three years:

November to October each year	*Spend (net) (£)*
2008-09	9,622,423
2009-10	15,890,390
2010-11	14,560,996

Departmental Contracts

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the permanent secretary at his Department has met representatives of *(a)* Amey, *(b)* CCA, *(c)* G4S, *(d)* GEO, *(e)* Interserve, *(f)* MITIE, *(g)* MTC, *(h)* Reliance, *(i)* Serco and *(j)* Sodexo since May 2010; and if he will place details of any such meetings in the Library. [86290]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: My Department publishes details of meetings between the permanent secretary and external organisations on its website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/moj/index.htm

Since May 2010, my permanent secretary has met with Serco on one occasion. Details of this meeting will be published in due course.

Electronic Tagging

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were sentenced to supervision by the courts in England and Wales with a condition of being electronically tagged, in each year since 2000. [86291]

Mr Blunt: According to data returns provided by electronic monitoring contractors the total number of orders sentenced by the courts with electronic monitoring, in England and Wales in each financial year since 1999-2000, was as follows:

Financial year	*Total number of orders sentenced by the courts with electronic monitoring*
1999-2000	3,039
2000-01	4,687
2001-02	6,900
2002-03	11,342
2003-04	18,296
2004-05	25,795
2005-06	30,787
2006-07	38,583
2007-08	49,760
2008-09	54,811
2009-10	55,894
2010-11	64,420
2011-12 (to end November 2011)	41,963

European Court of Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases against the UK were pending in the European Court of Human Rights on the most recent date for which information is available. [86324]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: According to the Court's published statistics, the number of applications pending against the UK was 6,197 at 18 July 2011. This total included applications for which a completed application form had not yet been received and on which no decision had yet been made about admissibility.

The vast majority of these applications will be declared inadmissible and will not result in a judgment. This is illustrated by the Court's statistics for 2010, which state that only 23 of applications against the UK resulted in judgments. For this year, up to October, the total number of judgments in applications against the UK was 10.

Formal Punishment

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners were subject to formal punishment after adjudication in each prison in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [86604]

Mr Blunt: Information in the form requested is not readily available. The offender management caseload statistics are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/omcs-annual.htm

They show that in 2009, a total of 98,275 offences by male prisoners were punished at adjudications, and 6,471 offences by female prisoners. Statistics for 2010 have not yet been published.

HM Prison Ranby

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff at HM Prison Ranby have lodged a grievance in the last two years. [86453]

Mr Blunt: NOMS records indicate that 26 staff submitted grievances via their line managers at HM Prison Ranby between 7 December 2009 and 7 December 2011.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many allegations of staff at HM Prison Ranby bringing in *(a)* drugs and *(b)* mobile telephones have been made in the last 12 months. [86454]

Mr Blunt: It would be inappropriate for operational reasons, including implications for order and control, the integrity of security systems and to ongoing investigations and operations in to staff misconduct, to provide the information requested.

NOMS will always seek to deal robustly with any member of prison staff engaging in any form of staff corruption, including the conveying of prohibited items in to prisons, and will look to use internal disciplinary and/or criminal proceedings depending on the circumstances of the case.

Judges

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the total cost was of salaries for judges employed by the Tribunal Service to hear appeals to decisions made under the work capability assessment in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and what estimate he has made of the likely cost of such salaries in 2012-13; [86369]

(2) how many judges were employed by the Tribunal Service to hear appeals to decisions made under the work capability assessment in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and what estimate he has made of the likely number of such judges in 2012-13. [86370]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) hears appeals against Department for Work and Pensions decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) (decisions in which the work capability assessment is a key factor) rather than appeals against work capability assessment decisions themselves.

The Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) tribunal hears appeals on a range of benefits, of which ESA is one, and judges are not appointed to hear ESA appeals specifically.

Judges can hear a range of different appeal types in any given day so it is not possible to isolate the cost of salaries and fees specifically for hearing ESA appeals. The following table shows the cost of judicial salaries and fees paid to judges in the SSCS tribunal.

Judicial salaries

	Cost (£ million)
2008-09	25.7
2009-10	32.0
2010-11	39.4
2011-12 (planned)	48.2

Resource planning for 2012-13 has not yet been finalised.

Judges may be salaried or fee-paid. The number of sittings undertaken by fee-paid judges varies from judge to judge depending on their availability but subject to a minimum of 30 days per year. As they can hear a range of different appeal types in any given day, it is not possible to identify the number hearing ESA appeals specifically. The number of SSCS judges fluctuates during the course of the year due to appointments, retirements and resignations.

The data management system for the SSCS tribunal is a live database and it is not possible to extract retrospective figures for the numbers of judges hearing appeals. The following table shows approximate numbers of judges at specific points between February 2008 and December 2011 as recorded in locally-held management information.

Number of tribunal judges February 2008 to December 2011

	Number of salaried judges	*Number of fee-paid judges*
February 2008	73	571
February 2009	70	545
August 2010	72	518
December 2011	94	645

Resource planning for 2012-13 has not yet been finalised.

Legal Opinion

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has commissioned external legal advice on which areas of legal aid could be taken out of the legal aid system without violating *(a)* treaty obligations and *(b)* European Convention rights; and if he will place a copy of any such advice in the Library. [86616]

Mr Djanogly: I can confirm that my Department has sought external legal advice on aspects of the legal aid reform programme but did not commission such advice specifically on which areas of legal aid could be taken out of the legal aid system without violating *(a)* treaty obligation and *(b)* European Convention rights.

Legal Opinion: Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which chambers his Department has instructed to give advice on matters relating to provisions in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill; and what fees were paid to each such chamber in the latest period for which figures are available. [86617]

Mr Djanogly: External legal advice has been sought on aspects of the legal aid reform but no external legal advice has been sought directly on the provisions in the Bill itself. We have not classified advice pertaining to litigation as being matters relating to provisions in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

Magistrates Courts: Wales

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 28W, on Magistrates Courts: Wales; which magistrates courts premises in Wales will be sold; and how much they each will be sold for. [85972]

Mr Djanogly: The following magistrates courts premises are for sale:

Aberdare magistrates and county court

Ammanford magistrates court

Barry magistrates court

Cardigan magistrates court
Denbigh magistrates court
Flint magistrates court
Llangefni magistrates court
Llwynypia magistrates court
Pwllheli magistrates court.

Negotiations with potential purchasers for these properties are 'subject to contract' and are regarded as commercial in confidence. It is therefore not possible to detail the sale price.

Offenders: Community Care

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2011, *Official Report,* columns 27-29W, on offenders: community care, what the subsequent offences are for which discharged restricted patients have been convicted. [86306]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only by a member of staff manually sifting through up to 2,094 files for over 150 working days at a disproportionate cost.

However, work to obtain information on further offences committed by those restricted patients discharged since December 2009 is under way, and I will write to my hon. Friend with that information as soon as it is available.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2011, *Official Report,* columns 27-29W, on offenders: community care, how many requests were made to him to release restricted patients into the community in each of the last five years; and how many such requests were granted. [86307]

Mr Blunt: It is not possible to provide the information requested relating to requests for discharge prior to 4 March 2009, the date on which an electronic caseworking system was introduced. To do so would require manual checks of 4,127 files for 98 days at disproportionate cost.

The number of requests to discharge restricted patients into the community received and granted from 4 March 2009 to 8 December 2011 are set out in the following table.

	Request for discharge	*Discharge agreed*	*Discharge refused*
4 March 2009 to 31 December 2009	74	64	10
2010	110	92	18
1 January 2011 to 9 December 2011	112	96	16

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the right hon. and learned Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), will discharge restricted patients into the community only if he is satisfied, based on the clinical evidence presented, that the patient no longer requires treatment in hospital and that arrangements for his safe management in the community have been made.

Offenders: Convictions

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of each offence listed in Schedule 16 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill who had previously been convicted of any of those offences in each of the last 10 years. [86585]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of people who were convicted of an offence listed in schedule 16 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, in the years 2001 to 2010, who at the time had at least one previous conviction for any one of these offences. Attempted offences and offences involving aiding, abetting, conspiracy and incitement are classified with the main offence, and have not been separately identified.

Offenders would not be eligible for a mandatory life sentence under clause 114 of the current Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill unless each conviction had merited a determinate sentence of at least 10 years. These figures show all convictions in cases where the offender had been convicted previously of a schedule 16 offence.

The figures relate to separate sentencing occasions; where an offender was sentenced on the same occasion for several offences it is the primary offence that has been counted. These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Number of people who were convicted of an offence listed in schedule 16 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, in the years 2001 to 2010, who had at least one previous conviction for a schedule 16 offence

Offence	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Manslaughter	23	25	16	19	14	14	27	16	6	10
An offence under section 4 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 (soliciting murder)	—	—	2	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
An offence under section 18 of that Act (wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm)	398	348	394	321	329	294	239	231	231	242
An offence under section 16 of the Firearms Act 1968 (possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life)	8	9	4	6	2	4	5	6	4	3
An offence under section 17(1) of that Act (use of a firearm to resist arrest)	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1

Number of people who were convicted of an offence listed in schedule 16 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, in the years 2001 to 2010, who had at least one previous conviction for a schedule 16 offence

Offence	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
An offence under section 18 of that Act (carrying a firearm with criminal intent)	15	14	18	13	7	10	16	9	9	6
An offence of robbery under section 8 of the Theft Act 1968 where, at some time during the commission of the offence, the offender had in his possession a firearm or an imitation firearm within the meaning of the Firearms Act 1968	1	4	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 (indecent images of children)	12	17	19	29	48	37	53	95	81	103
An offence under section 56 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (directing terrorist organisation)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 57 of that Act (possession of article for terrorist purposes)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 59 of that Act (inciting terrorism overseas) if the offender is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 47 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (use etc of nuclear weapons)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 50 of that Act (assisting or inducing certain weapons-related acts overseas)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 113 of that Act (use of noxious substance or thing to cause harm or intimidate)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (rape)	40	35	39	47	49	60	53	56	60	48
An offence under section 2 of that Act (assault by penetration)	—	—	—	—	11	6	8	6	8	6
An offence under section 4 of that Act (causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent) if the offender is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
An offence under section 5 of that Act (rape of a child under 13)	—	—	—	—	4	6	2	12	13	13
An offence under section 6 of that Act (assault of a child under 13 by penetration)	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	4	4	5
An offence under section 7 of that Act (sexual assault of a child under 13)	—	—	—	4	7	18	18	25	11	22
An offence under section 8 of that Act (causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity)	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	10	1	7
An offence under section 9 of that Act (sexual activity with a child)	—	—	—	4	18	24	20	26	31	33
An offence under section 10 of that Act (causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity)	—	—	—	2	2	4	4	2	10	10
An offence under section 11 of that Act (engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child)	—	—	—	—	6	4	3	6	5	5
An offence under section 12 of that Act (causing a child to watch a sexual act)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	2
An offence under section 14 of that Act (arranging or facilitating commission of a child sex offence)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
An offence under section 15 of that Act (meeting a child following sexual grooming etc)	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	5	6
An offence under section 25 of that Act (sexual activity with a child family member) if the offender is aged 18 or over at the time of the offence	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	2	1

Number of people who were convicted of an offence listed in schedule 16 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, in the years 2001 to 2010, who had at least one previous conviction for a schedule 16 offence

Offence	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
An offence under section 26 of that Act (inciting a child family member to engage in sexual activity) if the offender is aged 18 or over at the time of the offence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
An offence under section 30 of that Act (sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder impeding choice) if the offender is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
An offence under section 31 of that Act (causing or inciting a person with a mental disorder to engage in sexual activity) if the offender is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 34 of that Act (inducement, threat or deception to procure sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder) if the offender is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 35 of that Act (causing a person with a mental disorder to engage in or agree to engage in sexual activity by inducement etc) if the offender is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 47 of that Act (paying for sexual services of a child) against a person aged under 16	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
An offence under section 48 of that Act (causing or inciting child prostitution or pornography)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
An offence under section 49 of that Act (controlling a child prostitute or a child involved in pornography)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
An offence under section 50 of that Act (arranging or facilitating child prostitution or pornography)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 62 of that Act (committing an offence with intent to commit a sexual offence) if the offender is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for life	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006 (preparation of terrorist acts)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
An offence under section 9 of that Act (making or possession of radioactive device or materials)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 10 of that Act (misuse of radioactive devices or material and misuse and damage of facilities)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 11 of that Act (terrorist threats relating to radioactive devices, materials or facilities)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Murder	42	40	33	44	51	42	36	38	42	34
An offence under section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 (rape)—included with section 1 offences above	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
An offence under section 5 of that Act (intercourse with a girl under 13)	1	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	1

Personal Injury

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason the round table consultation meeting on personal injury matters scheduled for 1 November 2011 was postponed; and on what date it will now take place. [86154]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the right hon. Member to my previous answer given on 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 190W. The round table discussion was

postponed as the publication of the Government's response to "Solving Disputes in the County Courts" has been delayed. The meeting will be rescheduled for the new year once the consultation response has been published.

Police Cautions

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many conditional cautions were issued by police authorities in each of the last five years; and for which categories of offence. [85959]

The Attorney-General: I have been asked to reply.

Conditional Cautioning was established by the Criminal Justice Act 2003, and is operated under a statutory Code of Practice. The Code of Practice requires the Director of Public Prosecutions to issue supporting Guidance on Conditional Cautioning, which sets out the practical details of how the scheme operates. The range of offences that may be considered for a Conditional Caution are set out in the Guidance at Annex A. This annex can be found at the following link to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) website:

http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/others/conditionalcautioning04annexa.html

A Crown Prosecutor decides whether a Conditional Caution is an appropriate disposal in a case, in consultation with the police.

CPS data recorded on its Case Management System, shows that nationally the number of Conditional Cautions issued in the last five years is 34,466. A breakdown of Conditional Cautions issued by police force area level between 2007 and October 2011 is set out in tables which have been deposited in the Library of the House.

The CPS commenced publishing details on its website of the Conditional Cautions issued by areas from March 2010. This is published on a quarterly basis. From the information currently available it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the numbers of Conditional Cautions issued for each category of offence by police force area level. The information does provide a breakdown of offence categories for which Conditional Cautions have been issued. A copy of the breakdown at national level has been placed in the Library of the House and is categorised as follows:

Common Assault
Assaulting a police officer
Section 4 and 4A Public Order Act 1986
Destroying or damaging property
Unlawful taking of a motor vehicle
Interference with vehicles
Section 5 Public Order Act 1986
Obstructing a police officer
Drunk and Disorderly
Indecent exposure
Simple drunk
Violent behaviour in a police station
Other summary only offences
Theft
Removal of articles from places open to the public
Abstracting electricity
False accounting
Handling stolen goods
Going equipped for stealing etc
Making off without payment
Making a false representation
Failing to disclose information
Fraud by abuse of position
Possession of articles for use in frauds
Making or supplying articles for use in frauds
Obtaining services dishonestly
Threats to destroy or damage property
Possessing anything with intent to destroy or damage property
Possession of any class of drug (consistent with personal use)
Other Forgery

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the magistrates' service about the use of conditional cautions. [85989]

Mr Blunt: I met with the Magistrates Association on 24 May 2011 and 19 October 2011 to discuss wider sentencing issues.

The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for Arundel and South Downs (Nick Herbert), also met with the Magistrates Association on 29 September 2011 and 8 December 2011 to discuss proposals for the reform that included of out-of-court disposals.

Ministers will continue to engage with the Magistrates Association as we consider the development of conditional cautions policy as part of wider reforms.

Prisoners' Release: Lie Detectors

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1043W, on prisoners' release: lie detectors, for what reason some sex offenders did not attend a polygraph test; and whether any prisoners were returned to prison for breaching their licence conditions. [86312]

Mr Blunt: The answer of 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1043W, stated that 650 offenders were released with a (polygraph) licence condition and that 599 attended at least one polygraph session. The reasons for non-attendance were as follows:

43 were recalled to prison before the date of the test (testing took place eight to 12 weeks after release). The project did not collect data on the reasons for recall before testing but any recall must be on the basis of a breach of licence condition(s).

The other eight "no tests" were for one of the following reasons: an offender being unlawfully at large at the time of his scheduled test; medical reasons that interfered with the testing apparatus (e.g. Parkinson's disease, respiratory problems); legitimate cancellation but then the licence(s) having ended before the test could be rescheduled; the offender not attending but then the licence(s) having ended before rescheduling was possible (in such a case, enforcement action would have ensued).

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1043W, on prisoners' release: lie detectors, if he will estimate the *(a)* total cost to the public purse of the pilot and *(b)* average cost to the public purse of each lie detector test. [86314]

Mr Blunt: The total budget for the mandatory polygraph pilot was £1,135,000. This paid for a total of 1,290 tests, at an average cost of £880 each. The average cost per test includes an apportionment of all the costs arising from the pilot, in particular the research contract, testing and associated management costs, training costs for offender managers supervising offenders subject to the polygraph condition, and the cost of an administrator's post to support the pilot.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1043W, on prisoners' release: lie detectors, whether any offenders taking part in the pilot received any expenses in relation to their attendance or participation. [86315]

Mr Blunt: No incentives or rewards were offered to offenders in relation to their participation in the polygraph pilot. The testing was mandatory and offenders risked recall to custody if they did not attend for the polygraph test.

Some offenders may have had the cost of their travel between their home and the office, at which the test took place, reimbursed according to the rules of the probation trust responsible for their supervision. Trusts will reimburse some offenders for the cost of their travel to or from the office at which they are required to report, according to local policy and eligibility criteria.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1043W, on prisoners' release: lie detectors, how many offenders who took part in the lie detector pilot have re-offended since their release from prison. [86313]

Mr Blunt: Testing in the mandatory polygraph pilot ended on 31 October 2011. A report on the evaluation of the pilot, to determine whether mandatory polygraph testing is an effective additional tool for managing the risk of harm presented by sexual offenders, is due for publication in the summer of 2012. This research will look at the number of offenders recalled as a result of a breach of licence. However, the research does not include a reconviction study because of the lack of a suitable follow-up period while the fieldwork is being undertaken.

Some licence breaches may be a result of a further offence (as opposed to a breach of specific licence conditions). The research aims to assess if polygraph testing leads to more clinically significant disclosures to the offender manager during statutory supervision. It is not a recidivism study and, therefore, does not examine directly if the polygraph leads to fewer or more incidents of alleged offending during the licence period.

Prisons: Energy

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of heating and lighting was for the prison estate in the last year for which figures are available. [86081]

Mr Blunt: The most recent full year cost where figures are available is for financial year 2010-11.

The unit cost of gas and electric fluctuates in accordance with global marketing trading, therefore the prices given in this answer are the average for FY 2010-11 period.

During that period, the average cost per kWh paid for electricity to provide lighting was 3.9 pence per kWh, and 1.4 pence per kWh to provide gas for heating.

Prisons: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the level of staff turnover was by grade at HM Prison *(a)* Acklington, *(b)* Castington, *(c)* Coldingley, *(d)* Durham, *(e)* Hatfield, *(f)* Lindholme, *(g)* Moorland, *(h)* Onley and *(i)* Wolds, in 2010-11. [86288]

Mr Blunt: Information on the turnover rate, broken down by grade, of directly employed permanent staff from the named establishments between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011 is contained in the following tables.

Permanent staff turnover rates by grade, 2010-11

	Public sector			
Establishment	*Officer grades*	*Operational support grades*	*Other grades*	*All grades*
Acklington	3.4	5.5	2.9	3.6
Castington	1.8	5.7	9.8	4.5
Coldingley	3.1	6.8	4.4	4.2
Durham	3.5	6.7	8.0	5.2
Lindholme	2.9	3.1	8.1	4.5
Moorland/ Hatfield	4.2	5.3	6.7	5.0
Onley	7.8	6.5	7.9	7.7

	Private sector			
	Operational management	*Prison custody officers*	*Other grades*	*Total*
Wolds	11.8	3.8	6.3	5.5

Notes:
1. Information is on a headcount basis and relates directly employed staff who had a permanent contract of employment.
2. Turnover refers to staff leaving HM Prison Service and would not include staff leaving the establishments for other parts of the National Offender Management Service.
3. Hatfield staff are reported together with Moorland on the HR database and cannot be disaggregated.

Public Protection Arrangements

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements have committed each type of offence. [86321]

Mr Blunt: Sections 325 and 327 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 provide for specified categories of offender to be subject to the multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) established in each area. These are summarised in the following table.

Categories of offender subject to MAPPA

	Offender
Category 1	Registered sexual offender
Category 2	Violent or other sexual offender: who has been sentenced to 12 months or more custody for an offence under Schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003;or

Categories of offender subject to MAPPA

	Offender
	who has been sentenced to 12 months or more custody and is transferred to hospital under section 47/s.49 of the Mental Health Act 1983; or
	who is detained in hospital under section 37 of the Mental Health Act 1983 with or without a restriction order under section 41 of that Act.
Category 3	Other dangerous offender: a person who has been cautioned for or convicted of an offence which indicates that he or she is capable of causing serious harm and which requires multi-agency management. This might not be for an offence under Schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

Table 2 of the Ministry of Justice Statistics bulletin 'Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements Annual Report 2010-11' which was published on 27 October 2011, provides information about the number of offenders in each of the three categories who were subject to MAPPA. Information for the past five years is reproduced in the following table.

Offenders subject to MAPPA by Category on 31 March[1]

	Category 1 Registered sexual offenders	*Category 2 Violent offenders*	*Category 3 Other dangerous offenders*	*Total*
2005-06	29,983	14,292	3,313	—
2006-07	30,416	14,921	3,132	—
2007-08	31,392	16,249	2,569	—
2008-09	32,347	11,527	884	44,758
2009-10	34,939	12,766	633	48,338
2010-11	37,225	13,785	479	51,489

[1] Up to and including 2007-08 this figure was a yearly total; from 2008-09 this figure is taken at 31 March. Category 1 has always been taken on 31 March of the relevant year.

Information is not centrally available on the number of offenders who committed specific offences within these categories. The information could be obtained only by a manual search of the records held by all the local Probation Trusts and police forces of all the offenders made subject to MAPPA in the last five years. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to bring forward proposals to amend the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. [86100]

Nick Herbert: We intend to bring forward reforms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 by way of amendments to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

Reoffenders: Alternatives to Prosecution

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1045W, on reoffenders: alternatives to prosecution, (1) how many offenders with 15 or more previous convictions received subsequent police cautions in each of the last five years; [86322]

(2) how many offenders have received more than one out-of-court disposal for offences committed in each of the last five years. [86323]

Mr Blunt: My hon. Friend's request for further information has been answered using MOJ's published proven reoffending statistics. In this case proven reoffending is measured over a one year period from the point an offender receives their first caution.

Table 1 shows the number of cautioned adult offenders (aged 18 or over) with 15 or more previous convictions who then received a subsequent caution within a year, for the last five years for which data are available (2005 to 2009).

Table 1

	Number of offenders
2005	337
2006	549
2007	575
2008	512
2009	374

Table 2 shows the number of cautioned adult offenders (aged 18 or over) who received more than one out of court disposal (caution) within a year for the last five years for which data are available (2005 to 2009).

Table 2

	Number of offenders
2005	8,169
2006	11,314
2007	11,923
2008	10,649
2009	8,149

Sentencing

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase the effectiveness of community sentences. [86112]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: We are already taking action on strengthening community sentences through the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, including making Community Payback more immediate and intensive.

We have identified through this work that we need to go much further and will be consulting on reforms to ensure that community sentences effectively punish and rehabilitate offenders, in due course.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are serving a life sentence; for what crimes they were convicted; and how many have already served their tariff. [86556]

Mr Blunt: On 21 June 2011, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) published the following report: "Provisional figures relating to offenders serving indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPPs)". This can be found on the MOJ's website at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/mojstats/provisional-ipp-figures.pdf

Data on life sentenced prisoners are also included in the report.

Based on data at the end of March 2011, 8,100 people were serving a life sentence.

The category of offence for which they were imprisoned is shown in the following table.

	Number
Violence against the person	6,730
Sexual offences	910
Other violence (including robbery)	480
Total	8,100

Of these, 3,200 had passed their minimum tariff date.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 50 except for the more detailed offence categories which are rounded to the nearest 10. Figures have been rounded separately and will therefore not always sum to the totals.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Sexual Offences: Crime Prevention

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sex offenders have undertaken courses whilst *(a)* in custody and *(b)* in the community for the purposes of preventing them from re-offending. [86316]

Mr Blunt: There are a range of interventions that could all potentially help reduce an offender's risk of further sexual offending and/or general offending.

In terms of interventions specifically designed to meet the treatment needs of sexual offenders figures for completions in the seven years to 2010-11 are as follows:

	Custody SOTP completions	*Community SOTP completions*
2004-05	1,232	803
2005-06	1,152	961
2006-07	1,224	1,301
2007-08	1,117	1,360
2008-09	1,114	1,367
2009-10	1,133	1,452
2010-11	1,142	1,572

These figures are only for completions. The figures stated do not include those individuals who started but did not finish courses specified. Information on attrition rates are not kept centrally for the periods requested. Obtaining this information would only be possible through collating information from local sources and this only at disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders subject to sexual offences prevention orders have subsequently *(a)* reoffended and *(b)* committed further sexual offences in each of the last three years. [86318]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Table 7 of the Ministry of Justice statistics bulletin "Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements Annual Report 2010/11" which was published on 27 October 2011, provides information about offenders given sexual offences prevention orders (SOPOs) who are managed at level 2 and level 3 (that is, who are subject to active multi-agency management) under the multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) and who are sent to custody for breaching the terms of their SOPO. This information is given in the following table.

Information about offenders managed at level 1 (ordinary agency management), and information about the type of further offence committed by offenders at all levels, could be obtained only by a manual search of the records of all the 5,812 offenders given a SOPO in the last three years. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Returned to custody for breach of SOPO

	Level 2	*Level 3*	*Total*
2008-09	58	10	68
2009-10	81	8	89
2010-11	45	12	57

Tribunals Service: Work Capability Assessment

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any part of the Tribunals Service is planning to operate a six-day week to hear appeals against work capability assessment decisions; and which Tribunals Service centres are planning to do so. [86371]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) hears appeals against Department for Work and Pensions decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) (decisions in which the work capability assessment is a key factor) rather than appeals against work capability assessment decisions themselves.

The Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) tribunal hears appeals on a range of benefits, of which ESA is one. In response to significant and unforecast increases in appeals to the tribunal, HMCTS has taken a number of measures to increase its hearing capacity, by increasing the number of tribunal sessions held, increasing judicial and administrative productivity, and introducing more efficient processes and extended opening times. Total disposals by the SSCS tribunal in the period between April and October 2011 were 21% up on the same period in 2010, and 66% higher than in the same seven months in 2009.

All SSCS hearing venues hear appeals on the range of benefit types, including ESA. Saturday sittings have been introduced in a number of hearing venues. Appellants are asked whether they are willing to attend a hearing on a Saturday before their case is listed and the hearing will proceed exactly as it would on a weekday.

The following tribunal hearing venues are running Saturday sittings: Sutton, Bexleyheath, Fox Court (South London appeals), Cardiff, Wrexham, Langstone, Plymouth, Dundee and Hamilton.

The following tribunal hearing venues will run Saturday sittings from January 2012: Newcastle, South Shields, Leeds, and Sheffield.

The following tribunal hearing venues have run Saturday sittings and are evaluating the impact on clearance rates before deciding whether to run more: Watford, Wolverhampton, Leicester, Nottingham, Fox Court (North London appeals), and Anchorage House (London). Saturday sittings were also run in Liverpool during September, October and November 2011.

Young Offenders: Electronic Tagging

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to encourage courts to ensure juvenile offenders subject to curfew are also tagged electronically. [86171]

Mr Blunt: Any child or young person who comes before the court is subject to a rigorous assessment by the youth offending team which will include consideration of whether a curfew should be included in the sentence and whether this should be electronically monitored. For young children who are located in the family home it is not always considered necessary or appropriate to make a curfew subject to electronic monitoring. In these cases the child's parents would be expected to enforce the curfew reinforced by a police visit to confirm the child is at home.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have met members of the American Legislative Exchange Council to discuss voter registration since May 2010. [85262]

Mr Harper: Neither I nor the Deputy Prime Minister has met with members of the American Legislative Exchange Council to discuss voter registration since May 2010. Nor do we have any record of Cabinet Office officials meeting with the Council.

HEALTH

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards. [85842]

Mr Simon Burns: In the Department's London buildings, calorie labelling is provided at the point of purchase and displayed on weekly menus within the Department. Choice, value and wellbeing boards located at the restaurant entrances provide customer information including a weekly menu with calorie labelling.

Eleven of our arm's length bodies (ALBs) do not use contracts for food and catering services. Four ALBs use services provided under contracts arranged by the Department of Health or the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the answer for these bodies is provided by the Departments' replies. The remaining five ALBs anticipate discussing the inclusion of cross government standards of best practice with their suppliers, where possible, when negotiating new contracts or earlier.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure the country of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85843]

Mr Simon Burns: In the Department, the weekly menus located on the Choice Card at each restaurant entrance highlight the country of origin for all meat based meals. This information is also provided on the daily menu at point of purchase.

Eleven of the Department's arm's length bodies do not use contracts for food and catering services. Four arm's length bodies use services provided under contracts arranged by the Department or the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the answer for these bodies is provided by those Departments' replies. The remaining five arm's length bodies anticipate discussing the inclusion of cross government standards of best practice with their suppliers, where possible, when negotiating new contracts or earlier.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what overseas visits *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department has undertaken since 1 October 2011; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) date of each such visit was. [85824]

Mr Simon Burns: Details of all ministerial overseas travel are published quarterly in arrears on the Department's website. Data from 1 January 2010 up to the end of June 2011 can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/Departmentdirectors/DH_110759

Data for periods July to September and October to December will be published in the new year.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 Session to date. [85931]

Mr Simon Burns: As of 6 December 2011, the Department has received 6,126 questions for ordinary written answer in this parliamentary Session. Of those, 5,889 or 96% received a substantive answer within five sitting days. The following table shows the number and proportion of questions in the format requested.

	Number	*Percentage*
Within 10 sitting days	6,111	99.7
Within 20 sitting days	6,125	99.9
Within 30 sitting days	6,126	100
More than 30 sitting days	0	0

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

E. Coli

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps the Government have taken to tackle outbreaks of E. coli 0157 which have taken place in the last 12 months; [85946]

(2) what steps the Government are taking to prevent outbreaks of E. coli 0157; [85947]

(3) what action was taken by his Department to inform the general public of the outbreak of E. coli 0157 which took place in December 2010; [85951]

(4) what steps he was recommended to take by the Food Standards Agency following the outbreak of E. coli 0157 in December 2010; and what steps he took. [85952]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) leads on food safety matters.

Between December 2010 and July 2011, the Health Protection Agency (HPA), Health Protection Scotland and Public Health Wales received reports of 250 cases of infection with a particular subtype of E. coli 0157 known as Phage Type 8 (PT8) distributed across England, Scotland and Wales.

This was first reported in February 2011, when the HPA reported an outbreak of E. coli 0157 of undetermined cause in its weekly Health Protection Report, and in subsequent monthly references to case numbers and reports to the HPA Board in March and May this year, all published on the HPA's website. From 3 February 2011, the FSA worked as part of the Outbreak Control Team, chaired by the HPA, to undertake comprehensive investigations into the possible cause(s) of the outbreak. This involved preliminary interviews with every identified case and detailed interviews with a number of cases. Statistical analysis of information was applied.

When those investigations revealed an association with handling raw vegetables, the FSA, in collaboration with the HPA, consumer groups and the food industry, alerted the general public to the outbreak of E. coli 0157 and its association with handling certain raw vegetables by publishing, in September, a reminder to consumers of the importance of washing all fruit and vegetables, including salad, before eating, unless labelled ready-to-eat, to ensure that they are clean.

The advice also stated that it is important to wash hands thoroughly as well as clean chopping boards, knives and other utensils after preparing vegetables to prevent cross-contamination. This targeted campaign formed part of FSA's Foodborne Disease Strategy which aims to increase awareness and understanding of general good domestic food hygiene as a means of reducing all types of foodborne disease and as a precursor to achieving changes in behaviour and improvements in domestic hygiene standards.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he was informed of the outbreak of E. coli 0157 which took place in December 2010; [85949]

(2) on what date the Health Protection Agency informed him that it had been notified of the outbreak of E. coli 0157 in December 2010; [85950]

(3) on what date the Food Standards Agency informed him that it had been notified of the outbreak of E. coli 0157 in December 2010. [85953]

Anne Milton: The Department was informed by the Health Protection Agency on 2 February 2011 that an outbreak control team was being called for 3 February to investigate increased numbers of cases of E. coli 0157 Phage Type 8 (PT8) reported across England, Wales and Scotland between December 2010 and July 2011, and the possibility that these could be due to a national foodborne outbreak.

The Food Standards Agency notified on 25 July 2011 about the ongoing incident of E. coli 0157 and the actions they proposed for advising consumers.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Health Protection Agency or the Food Standards Agency was designated by his Department as the lead agency in responding to the outbreak of E. coli 0157 in December 2010. [85954]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) formed an Outbreak Control Team (OCT) in February 2011 when an outbreak of vero cytotoxin-producing E. coli (VTEC) 0157 phage type (PT) 8 infection was declared based on 50 human cases reported between December 2010 and July 2011.

The OCT was chaired by the HPA in accordance with the agreed procedures for management of outbreaks of foodborne illness. The remit of the OCT was to identify the cause and source of the infection. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is a member of the OCT.

Once an analytical study showed infection was associated with the handling of loose leeks and potatoes, the FSA was designated as the lead in the investigation into any possible links to food or food premises being the potential source of the outbreak.

Food Standards Agency: Publicity

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of each public awareness campaign undertaken by the Food Standards Agency in the last 12 months. [85756]

Anne Milton: There have been three public awareness campaigns undertaken by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in the past 12 months. These have promoted awareness of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme; the food hygiene risks associated with vegetables; and good food hygiene practice at Christmas. The expenditure on each campaign over the past 12 months is shown in the following table together with a breakdown by United Kingdom country. The E. coli and vegetables and Christmas campaigns are not yet complete so the final amounts may exceed the figures shown. The funding of the FSA in the devolved countries is provided by the Welsh Government, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Assembly.

	£
Food Hygiene Rating Scheme	
Wales	180,000
Northern Ireland	179,000

	£
Total	359,000
E. coli and vegetables	
Wales	80,000
Northern Ireland	12,000
Scotland	167,000
Total	259,000
Christmas	
England	48,000
Total	48,000

Food: Radiation Exposure

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional assessment for radioactive contamination the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has carried out on foodstuffs imported from Japan since the incident at the Fukishima nuclear plant in March 2011; what additional costs have been incurred by the FSA in conducting such tests; and from which budget any such costs have been paid. [86005]

Anne Milton: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 961/2011 imposes special conditions governing the import of feed and food originating in or consigned from Japan following the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power station. This regulation requires the analysis for radioactive iodine and radioactive caesium from 10% of consignments from Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Miyagi, Yamanashi, Nagano, Saitama, Tokyo, Chiba, Kanagawa and Shizuoka Prefectures. In addition, 20% of consignments from all other Prefectures are also required to be analysed for these radionuclides. The tests are carried out on behalf of the Port Health Authorities and the costs are charged to the importers, so the Food Standards Agency has not had to pay out for these additional analyses.

Gangs

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department plans to spend on work relating to the recent cross-Government report on ending gang and youth violence. [86331]

Anne Milton: The Department has not yet confirmed its central budgets for 2012-13, which are in the process of being set through the Department's normal business planning processes. A number of different programmes that the Department currently funds, such as Family Nurse Partnerships and Youth Justice Liaison and Diversion, may make a long-term contribution to ending gang and youth violence.

Medical Records: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Welsh Government on proposals for the use of Welsh resident patient data held by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency for research purposes, including Welsh residents who have received treatment outside Wales; [86199]

(2) pursuant to his contribution of 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 31, on life sciences, which datasets of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency are held on an *(a)* UK and *(b)* England-only basis. [86337]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has been running the General Practice Research Database (GPRD), that is owned by the Secretary of State for Health, since 1999. The GPRD has arrangements with general practices in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland so that it is a generalisable sample dataset for each nation as well as the United Kingdom as a whole. GPRD is also linked to other national health service datasets such as Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Cancer and Myocardial Infarction Registries. However, for operational reasons the current linkage is only undertaken for general practitioner practices within England.

The recently announced MHRA service, Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD), is a partnership with the National Institute for Health Research and has been established to run a similar English service to the Secure Anonymised Information Linkage research service in Wales and that in Scotland (Scottish Health Informatics Programme), that are both already operating. However, there are research needs that require access to data across the four nations and additionally other services that need particular strengths of research groups in various parts of the UK; so co-operation will be required.

No discussions have taken place between Ministers but discussions have been ongoing with those involved in both the Welsh and the Scottish research systems, since the start of the precursor to CPRD, which is the Research Capability Programme. These discussions have now stepped up to ensure that what is the largest system, by virtue of population size of England, takes a lead in fostering a dynamic synergistic relationship to the benefit of all patients, the NHS as a whole and research teams wherever they are located. Ministers have been apprised of developments during these discussions.

Subject to agreements between the relevant groups it is expected that data access and data linkage for specific research purposes will be enabled across the UK provided all governance approvals are agreed and in place.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Mr Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to prevent public money being spent on *(a)* legal fees incurred in the pursuit of whistleblowers in the NHS and *(b)* independent reviews from companies such as Verita on such issues. [86390]

Anne Milton: People who raise concerns in the public interest are subject to certain protections under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

National health service trusts are independent employers and organisations in their own right and operate in accordance with their local disciplinary and grievance procedures and employment legislation.

The need for independent review on such issues would be considered on a case by case basis.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he took to maintain the Health in Pregnancy and Sure Start Maternity Grant. [84377]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department of Work and Pensions.

In the June 2010 Budget, the Government announced a range of measures including limiting the Social Fund Sure Start Maternity Grant scheme to the first child and the abolition of the Health in Pregnancy Grant. These were part of the Government's deficit reduction plan.

Sure Start maternity grants are available to families in receipt of income support, income-related employment and support allowance, income-based jobseeker's allowance, pension credit, child tax credit at a rate above the family element, or working tax credit that also includes a disability or severe disability element. This broad eligibility ensures that the grant is as widely available as possible among families with lower incomes both in and out of work.

Restricting payment in this way ensures that the limited resources available support families when they need it most.

Prescription Drugs

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will assess the merits of requiring the manufacturing of blister packs of prescriptions in quantities of seven tablets rather than 10 in order to eliminate the need to cut blister strips to fill prescriptions and enable medicines to be dispensed in their original packaging; [86579]

(2) if he will take steps against medicines distributors who do not comply with his Department's requirements on the information which must appear on the outer and inner packaging of medicines when blister packs of medicines are split; [86580]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of the practice of cutting blister packs of medicines into strips due to a disparity between amounts of medicines prescribed and packaging quantities on *(a)* long-term and *(b)* other patients. [86581]

Mr Simon Burns: The requirements for medicines labelling are set out in European and national legislation. Blister strips are intended to be enclosed within outer packaging which is fully labelled with detailed information on the safe and effective use of the product. Each blister strip must be labelled with the name of the product, the expiry date, batch number and the name and address of the marketing authorisation holder. Legislation does not specify the quantities of tablets to be contained in particular types of packaging.

The Medicines for Human Use (Marketing Authorisations etc.) Regulations 1994 require the Marketing Authorisation holder to meet the requirement of European law on leaflets and labelling and makes it an offence for all those in the supply chain including wholesalers, dispensing doctors and pharmacists to supply medicines that fail to meet those requirements.

A high proportion of national health service medicines in England are already prescribed in complete pack quantities. However, the prescriber has clinical discretion over the exact quantity of a medicine that is prescribed, according to patient need. Sometimes the quantity will not be available exactly in the pack size. In this situation, the pharmacist is required legally to dispense the quantity prescribed and will need to break a pack to do so. An assessment has not been made of the effect of cutting blister packs on long-term and other patients.

Social Services

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent meetings Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of the Care and Support Alliance; whether he plans to bring forward proposals to reform the care system; and if he will make a statement. [86622]

Paul Burstow: The Care and Support Alliance have been involved throughout the engagement exercise, having met with officials and engagement leads to discuss their priorities for the reform of adult social care. Numerous events and meetings have also taken place with the constituent groups of the Care and Support Alliance, and a number of their members were chosen specifically to participate in "Caring for our future" as either co-leads or reference group members.

Ministers have attended a number of these events and have met with many representatives of the Care and Support Alliance since "Caring for our future" was launched on 15 September 2011.

The feedback received from the engagement will now be considered alongside the recommendations from the Commission on Funding of Care and Support and the Law Commission. The Government are committed to publishing a White Paper, and a progress report on funding, in spring 2012, and to legislating at the earliest possible opportunity.

Social Services: Registration

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure that social workers registering or renewing their membership of the General Social Care Council before July 2012 will not pay duplicate full-year registration fees for its successor body the Health Professionals Council when it comes into being. [85992]

Paul Burstow: Subject to legislation, on 31 July 2012 the regulatory functions of the General Social Care Council (GSCC) will transfer to the Health Professions Council (HPC)—to be renamed the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)—which is an independent regulatory body.

For the past 10 years, social worker regulation has been heavily subsidised by the Government, thereby ensuring that the fee remained at £30 year on year. In the current economic climate it is no longer fair to ask the taxpayer to subsidise social workers in this way.

Having considered a number of options, the GSCC has decided to collect its fees as normal up until its closure. It is therefore possible that a social worker will be required to pay fees both to the GSCC and to the HCPC in 2012. However, once the register transfer to the HCPC, registrants will be offered a period of up to four months to renew their registration and will be given the choice of paying the registration fee in four instalments across the two-year period.

Departmental officials are working with the HPC and the GSCC to ensure that the processes for registrant fees are straightforward and clear and that registrants have the information to make decisions appropriate to their circumstances in the months approaching the transfer of regulatory functions.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Armed Forces

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers have been given to local authorities to provide affordable housing to serving or former service personnel since May 2010. [85693]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 8 December 2011]:* Local authorities already have statutory powers enabling them to provide social housing to serving or former service personnel, and to offer such households greater priority in their allocation schemes.

We are determined that members of the armed forces and ex-service personnel should get the housing they deserve, and we are consequently taking the following measures:

giving service personnel top priority for Government-funded home ownership schemes, including the new FirstBuy scheme, and prioritising military personnel and their families for up to a year after active service ends;

providing tailored support through housing experts visiting military bases across the country to explain to service personnel how they can apply for one of the many new homes that will be built in the next few years;

consulting shortly on plans to change the law so that former personnel with urgent housing needs are always given high priority on waiting lists and so that personnel who move from base to base do not lose their qualification rights;

consulting on proposals to give local authorities greater freedom to dispose of vacant council homes at right to buy discounts to local people which could include existing or former military personnel;

providing support for wounded service personnel through increased funding for home adaptations, so that personnel returning from active service with serious injuries can live independently with dignity and respect;

working with homelessness and veteran experts to help ex-service personnel who find the transition back to civilian life difficult;

providing £1.5 million (two-year funding) to help Rushmoor borough council and other councils support the integration of retired Gurkhas, who, having served in the British Army, now wish to settle in the UK.

Affordable Housing: Finance

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the receipts from the sale of local authority-owned homes will go to local authorities for the construction of new social housing. [86197]

Grant Shapps: Local authorities currently retain all the receipts from the voluntary sale of local authority-owned homes, and 25% of the receipt from right to buy (or similar) sales. These receipts may be used to fund the building of new social housing, but that is a decision for each authority.

My Department intends to consult shortly on how, in future, right to buy receipts can be used to fund replacement social housing at affordable rents on a one-to-one basis either through registered housing associations or local authorities.

Council Tax Benefits

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effect on council tax collection rates of *(a)* the localisation of council tax benefit and *(b)* the planned 10 per cent. reduction in its funding; and if he will make a statement. [82649]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* An impact assessment on our broad plans for localisation of council tax will be published in due course. Under localisation, local authorities will have the flexibility to design local schemes taking into account local circumstances, including collection rates.

Procurement

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures his Department has put in place to ensure value for money on purchases; and what savings have been identified using those procedures in the last year. [82314]

Robert Neill: In line with Government commitments to reduce public sector expenditure my Department has undertaken a comprehensive review of spend to identify savings and cost efficiencies.

Following Cabinet Office guidance the Department has placed an immediate freeze on consulting expenditure, unless it is of operational necessity and the work cannot be undertaken by civil servants.

Procedures have been introduced whereby the Minister and Permanent Secretary review all consultancy contracts of £20,000 or more on a three monthly basis and ensuring that any proposals to extend contracts longer than nine months are jointly approved by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the right hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander).

Mechanisms to manage demand have been put in place to manage and reduce expenditure through the Government Procurement Card. My Department has also published online all its spending on goods and services since 2008 over £500 online which has helped identify waste and inefficiency.

Savings are borne out in Department accounts. Note 9 'other administrative costs' of the Department's Report and Accounts 2010-11 (page 129) reports that non-pay Gross Admin Costs for the Department reduced from £123 million in 2009-10 to £104 million in 2010-11, once early retirement costs of £64 million were taken into account. Figures in this report are prepared in accordance with HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual for central Government Departments and associated Treasury resource accounting and budgeting guidance.

Additionally, the Department's Public Sector Public Procurement Expenditure Survey shows a 29% reduction in third party expenditure from 2009-10 to 2010-11.

In particular the Department has made significant operational savings, by reducing demand and renegotiating commercial terms, £1.8 million in IT contracts and £2.4 million in temporary staffing and interim labour costs.

The Department has achieved estimated net property running costs reductions of £9.8 million per annum since the start of the spending review period which includes £1.9 million in Estates requirements in the last financial year. In addition the Department has reduced its research expenditure by 36% (£10.8 million) in 2010-11.

Ministers and officials review all budgets and business cases to evaluate value for money.

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [85700]

Robert Neill: All public bodies for which my Department is responsible have and maintain risk registers including, for example; board-level registers, sub-committee level registers and registers for those bodies undergoing significant reform. A list of all registers held could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Secondment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86139]

Robert Neill: Since May 2010, there have been no secondments into DCLG from either industry or the third sector.

Discretionary Payment Regulations

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many appeals pursuant to section 45 of the Local Government (Discretionary Payment) Regulations 1996 he and his predecessors have received in each of the last five years; how many times ministerial directions have been ignored or challenged by local authorities in each of those years; what steps he is able to take against local authorities who act against his decisions under those regulations; and if he will make a statement. [83180]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Section 45 provides a right of appeal to the Secretary of State where an employer has not determined if there has been an accident or injury arising from an individual's employment which has resulted in a loss of earnings. The amount of any award where there is a loss of earning is a discretion of the employer and is not a question on which an employee can appeal to the Secretary of State.

Between March 2006 and November 2011 a total of 43 appeals have been received in the Department. No formal statistical return has been kept as there were too few cases to justify this, and the cost of determining how many were received in each of the last five years would be disproportionate. Since there is no recourse to the Secretary of State relating to the actual amount of any award, there is no record of any authorities refusing to implement their decisions. Should the employer fail to implement or award a sum in recognition, an individual has the right of appeal to the pensions ombudsman.

Fire Service College

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on consideration of the future of the Fire Service College in Moreton-in-Marsh. [86512]

Robert Neill: In our response to the fire sector's fire futures reports earlier this year, the Government said that the Fire Service College could achieve their full potential only if there was greater involvement from other sectors (whether private, public or voluntary) in its ownership, operation and governance and that we would

"explore with the sector and other organisations options to secure the future of the Fire Service College."

We have taken that forward by conducting a pre-market engagement exercise throughout September and October to invite views of external partners and to assess the level of private sector interest in the college.

The response to the pre-market engagement from both the public and private sectors has been very encouraging and a number of private sector companies have expressed an interest in managing the college. The fire sector has also responded positively to the pre-market engagement and their views will be a vital element in our considerations of the future option.

We are now reviewing the responses and these will help inform the next phase of the project. We expect to be able to confirm the next steps, including a preferred future option, in the new year.

Fire Services

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which fire brigades have opted to use *(a)* trauma risk management and *(b)* applied suicide intervention skills training; and if he will make a statement. [86460]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Construction

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with representatives of the house building industry on the introduction of a voluntary agreement to publish data about the *(a)* size and *(b)* quality of new homes; and if he will make a statement. [86450]

Andrew Stunell: Details of DCLG Ministers meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis and are available at:

www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/transparencyingovernment/ministerialdata/

Officials at the Department for Communities and Local Government have been working closely with the National House Building Council to explore options for improving the availability of statistical information about new homes, including size and quality.

Housing: Merseyside

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress the Homes and Communities Agency's Local Stewardship Committee has made in Merseyside. [85468]

Greg Clark: Following consultation with bodies across the local area, the Homes and Communities Agency has established a Stewardship Steering Group which includes two local representatives: Carole Hudson, chief executive of St Helens metropolitan borough council and Jack Stopforth, chief executive of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce. In addition to the two local representatives, the Stewardship Steering Group comprises a private sector/local enterprise partnership representative and a senior local authority officer from each of the other four partnership areas in the local area.

The steering group met for the first time on 10 November where members were briefed on the Economic Assets Programme and the nature of the assets and liabilities transferred from the North West Development Agency. The Home and Communities Agency's team has subsequently met individually with all local enterprise partnerships and local authority partners in the area to shape initial views on how to take the assets forward.

The Stewardship Steering Group will meet again on 15 December where the Homes and Communities Agency will present its initial proposals for how the assets and liabilities will be managed and what options exist for further investment or for early disposal.

These proposals will include the Homes and Communities Agency's plans for dealing with its major assets in the Liverpool city region which are predominantly in Liverpool and Wirral.

Housing: North-east England

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the level of home completions needed to meet demand for housing in the north-east over the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [85563]

Andrew Stunell: The Department does not estimate housing need. However, the Department publishes household projections, which are a trend-based view of the number of households that would form given a projected population and previous demographic trends. Local authorities should use the projections as a part of the evidence base for assessing future housing demand.

Household projections are based on the sub-national population projections published by the Office for National Statistics, the most recent of which are 2008-based. The 2008-based household projections show that the number of households in the north-east is projected to increase from 1,137,000 households in 2011 to 1,183,000 households in 2016.

Land Use: Databases

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of the National Land Use Database; and if he will make a statement. [86231]

Robert Neill: The National Land Use Database of Previously Developed Land and Buildings provides an annual snapshot and inventory of the national stock of vacant and/or derelict land and buildings in England that may be available for development. It is the only countrywide source of information on previously used, or brownfield land and its data are classified as 'Official Statistics', published by the Office for National Statistics on its Neighbourhood Statistics website providing Parliament and the public with intelligence on land use.

The Homes and Communities Agency took over the responsibility for the data in 2008 and in preparing the annual data works closely with local planning authorities in England collecting individual site data in a standardised form. Recent efforts in modernising and simplifying the database and data collection have seen an increase in both data quality and the number of users of the data. The agency is continuing to examine ways in which technology might help in continuing this trend with a particular emphasis on data collection and its transparency/interpretation.

The Homes and Communities Agency expects to publish the figures for 2010 returns in the spring.

Local Government: Pensions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to improve employees' confidence in the Local Government Pension Scheme. [86029]

Robert Neill: The Government's plans to reform public service pension schemes, including the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales, are intended to put in place new, good quality arrangements that are affordable, sustainable and fair both to taxpayers and to each scheme's members for the long-term. Developments taking place currently on several fronts within the scheme are intended to secure this important objective, including a statutory consultation exercise to secure fairly and progressively some £900 million savings in the scheme by 2014-15, and discussions with key business partners on longer term reforms, following Lord Hutton's recommendations to the Government earlier this year.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an economic impact assessment has been carried out on the effect of the proposed changes to the local government pension scheme *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Coventry South constituency. [86030]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Members for Gedling (Vernon Coaker) and Stoke-on-Trent Central (Tristram Hunt), on 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 23W.

Local Government: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will treat as a priority any application from Peterborough city council to join the Capital Asset Pathfinders scheme; and if he will make a statement. [86396]

Grant Shapps: The Capital and Assets approach (area based asset management) was co-designed with 11 areas and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), launched the findings and methodology in August 2011, highlighting the potential for any area to save 20% from the asset base. These are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/capitalassets/

Support for the programme is now overseen by the Local Government Association and they can support any individual area that needs assistance to help formulate plans. However there is nothing stopping individual local areas from working with partners in the sharing of public assets.

Non-domestic Rates: Tax Allowances

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether businesses that will not be eligible for business rate discounts will be able to vote in ballots to determine which industries are eligible; [86568]

(2) what assessment he has made of the use of ballots to determine which industries will be eligible for business rate discounts; and if he will make a statement. [86570]

Robert Neill: The use of the new power to grant business rate discounts will be entirely at the discretion of the relevant local authority. No ballots are required.

Planning Permission: Carbon Emissions

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how he proposes that the National Planning Policy Framework will deliver a low carbon transport infrastructure. [84148]

Greg Clark: The draft National Planning Policy Framework confirms the important role planning has in tackling climate change and making the transition to a low carbon economy. The draft Framework states that developments that generate significant movement should be located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be maximised. It also states that planning strategies should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people, and that developments should, where practical, incorporate facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles.

The consultation on the draft Framework ended in October and we are considering all the suggestions that have been made as part of the consultation.

Public Expenditure: Birmingham

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated to Birmingham City Council in *(a)* ring-fenced and *(b)* non-ring fenced funding grants for each of the next three years. [85451]

Robert Neill: There is no full list of the Department's funding allocations to any local authority for any future year. The following table shows the revenue grants our Department is currently expecting to pay to Birmingham city council during 2012-13 as at 8 December 2011. Further grants may be announced in due course.

All these grants are non-ring-fenced. It is not DCLG policy to make ring-fenced grants to local authorities.

	£ million
Formula Grant	646.520
New Homes Bonus	7.416
DCLG grants feeding into Local Services Support Grant Preventing Homelessness	1.250

Troubled Families Unit

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what progress he has made in establishing the Troubled Families Unit; [85289]

(2) what estimate he has made of the budget for the Troubled Families Unit in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [85290]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of staff of his Department who will work on the Troubled Families Taskforce in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15; [85294]

(4) what targets his Department has set to measure the performance of its Troubled Families Unit; and how his Department will monitor performance against such targets; [85298]

(5) what assessment his Department has made of the role of the Troubled Families Team in tackling social exclusion. [85279]

Robert Neill: A new Troubled Families Team was established on 1 November 2011, headed up by Louise Casey, to drive forward a programme of work to meet the Prime Minister's commitment to turn around the lives of 120,000 troubled families by the end of this Parliament. It will work across central Government and with local government and other local agencies to provide the leadership and ambition needed to get to grips with the problem of troubled families. The work will include simplifying delivery arrangements and ensuring co-ordination between programmes established for different purposes, such as getting people back to work, children into school, and addressing poor behaviour.

The team is currently developing its work programme that will establish the resources needed to tackle this important agenda. The approach to performance monitoring is being considered as part of this process and staffing levels for the team are yet to be finalised as they will be determined by the requirements of the work

programme. Although the work programme is at an early stage of development, it is envisaged that turning around the lives of troubled families will have a significant impact on tackling the social exclusion of these families. More details will be given to the House on this work programme in due course.

Wildlife: Planning

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to provide specific protection for *(a)* local wildlife sites and *(b)* nature improvement areas in the National Planning Policy Framework. [85623]

Greg Clark: The Natural Environment White Paper sets out the steps the Government are taking to protect and improve the natural environment including through establishing nature improvement areas. In the consultation draft of the National Planning Policy Framework we set out planning's important contribution to safeguarding our natural environment and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible. We are carefully considering all of the responses to the consultation before finalising the framework.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Location

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what progress he has made on identifying alternative sites for the relocation of civil service jobs from Greater London; and if he will make a statement; [86025]

(2) whether he plans to develop a further programme of civil service employment relocation in 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [86024]

Mr Maude: Our property strategy is driven by cost and we expect continued cost pressures to less of the civil service to be based in very expensive central London real estate.

The current spending controls on Government property are reducing the cost and size of the estate, and in the first year of this initiative, over 500,000 square metres of property was surrendered. As the estate reduces in size, retained buildings will be utilised more intensively wherever possible.

The Government have begun work on central London and Bristol pilots to rationalise the civil estate in these cities and will apply the lessons learned from these to develop strategies for other metropolitan areas.

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards; [85826]

(2) what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure the country of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85827]

Mr Maude: Pre-packed food items and beverages are labelled with nutritional information provided by the manufacturer. The calorific content of the food that is produced on the Cabinet Office estate is not labelled on menus or display boards. There are no plans to introduce this at present.

The Cabinet Office adheres to the Government's guidelines for sourcing food locally where possible while providing value for money. Currently we do not display the country of origin on our food menus. However, information on country of origin is available to all customers on request.

Departmental Pay

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* salary and *(b)* other costs associated with (i) the post of Cabinet Secretary, Head of Civil Service and Permanent Secretary, Cabinet Office, (ii) the post of Permanent Secretary, 10 Downing street and (iii) each other permanent secretary post in his Department (A) were in 2010-11 and (B) are expected to be between April and December 2011; what the equivalent figures for the posts of (1) Head of the Civil Service, (2) Cabinet Secretary, (3) Permanent Secretary, Cabinet Office and (4) each other official in the Cabinet Office holding Permanent Secretary rank are expected to be (x) between January and March 2012 and (y) in 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [86588]

Mr Maude: As part of the commitment to making Government more transparent and accountable, Departments are required to publish structure charts every six months showing the names, job roles and pay details for their senior staff, including Permanent Secretaries. These structure charts include information on individuals salaries, set within £5,000 bands. Departmental structure charts can be found at:

http://data.gov.uk/organogram

Government Departments: Sustainable Development

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress he has made in holding Government Departments to account for their commitment to sustainable development through the quarterly business plan review process. [85770]

Mr Letwin: I am responding due to my role in the Business Plan process. We have recently completed the second round of quarterly review meetings, making headway on reviewing departmental progress against the published plans. The full outcome of this work will be reflected in the annual refresh of business plans to be published in April.

National Citizen Service

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Office and *(c)* senior officials met the Prince's Trust to discuss its withdrawal from the National Citizen Service; and if he will make a statement. [86470]

Mr Hurd: Details of ministerial meetings with external representatives are published on a quarterly basis on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

Ministers and senior officials meet with sector representatives on a regular basis on a range of relevant issues.

Public Sector: Industrial Disputes

Guto Bebb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether trade union representatives have requested the Government to postpone deductions in pay from public sector workers who went on strike on 30 November. [86016]

Mr Maude: No such request regarding the postponement of deductions from striking workers' pay has been received from the civil service trade unions. Were such a request to be made by the civil service trade unions, Government would consider it inappropriate to pay people for work that they have not done at this or any other time of year.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Ministerial Group on the Big Society has considered the compact on working with the voluntary sector; and if he will make a statement. [85682]

Mr Hurd: The renewed compact has not been a formal discussion item at any meetings of the ministerial group on big society. However, Departments are aware of their commitments towards the compact and, from 2012-13, it is intended that Government Departments will include a statement on how the compact is being implemented in their business plans.

The NAO will shortly publish a report on how central Government Departments have implemented the principles set out in the renewed compact.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Cluster Munitions

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to prohibit any company that produces cluster munitions and or components for cluster munitions from attending UK trade events or receiving Government contracts for demilitarisation; and if he will make a statement. [81340]

Mr Prisk: Under the Export Control Order 2008 it is prohibited for any person in the UK to do any act calculated to promote the supply or delivery of cluster munitions from one third country to another unless authorised to do so by a licence granted by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable). A licence would be granted only where the activity was permitted by the convention on cluster munitions, for example to enable destruction of the munitions. However, provided companies which produce cluster munitions do not engage in such promotional activities in the UK the Government have no plans to prohibit such companies from attending UK trade events. The major UK defence exhibitions are commercial events and the admission of companies is a matter for the commercial organisers.

Under current plans, it is the Government's intention to destroy remaining stocks of UK cluster munitions by the end of 2013 under existing contracts. To date all Department for International Development funding for demining has been allocated to the UN and contracts let to non-governmental organisations. Funding is now committed to 2013.

As a state party to the convention on cluster munitions, the UK has prohibited the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of cluster munitions. The UK is fully committed to the universalisation of the convention on cluster munitions and continues to use all appropriate opportunities to promote ratification or accession to the convention.

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards. [85838]

Mr Davey: The central Department's catering is contracted out to BaxterStorey who plan to introduce calorie labelling at the end of January 2012.

Information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure the country of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85839]

Mr Davey: The central Department's catering is contracted out to BaxterStorey who already include some key information (i.e. UK sourced—Union Jack added). BaxterStorey are committed to better information being displayed, subject to menus and display boards remaining clear and readable.

Information for non departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Secondment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86134]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright) of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 302W. I can also confirm that none of the secondments is from the third sector.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 Session to date. [85929]

Mr Davey: The Department aims to answer ordinary written parliamentary questions (PQs) within five sitting days. Where it is not possible to provide a full answer within the usual deadline, the Department believes it will normally be preferable to provide an answer a few days late, rather than provide an incomplete answer.

During the period 18 May 2010 to 30 November 2011, a total of 4,157 ordinary PQs were answered of which 3,992 (96%) received a substantive reply within 10 sitting days. Two questions, for this period, remain to be answered.

In line with the format provided to the Procedure Committee in the last Session,[1] the Department's PQ data are recorded by (i) questions answered on time (ii) questions answered within 5-10 days and (iii) questions answered more than 10 days late. Data related to PQs answered 20; 30 days or more than 30 days late are not held centrally within BIS.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written PQ performance on a sessional basis and will provide the Committee with the information, using the same format as before, at the end of the Session.

These figures have been drawn from the Department's database which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

[1] Procedure Committee—First Special Report 7 December 2009 [HC 129]

Education: Visual Impairment

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department provides for partially sighted and blind pupils in *(a)* further and *(b)* higher education. [85180]

Mr Willetts: Higher education (HE) institutions and further education (FE) colleges have duties under the Equality Act 2010 to support disabled students, including blind and partially sighted students, when applying to higher and further education and when studying. The law establishes a framework of responsibility which higher education institutions and further education colleges must comply with and also promotes an anticipatory and proactive approach to supporting disabled students. Institutions are required to make reasonable adjustments for disabled students to ensure that they can fully participate in their education and enjoy the other benefits, facilities and services which are provided for students.

The Government provide support to disabled students in higher education. We provide funding to HE institutions, through the Higher Education Funding Council for England, to help them recruit and support disabled students; £13 million will be provided in academic year 2011/12.

The Government also provide direct support to disabled students through disabled students' allowances (DSAs). DSAs can help pay the extra costs a student may incur, because of a disability, when undertaking a course of higher education. DSAs are provided in addition to the standard student support package, are not income-assessed and do not have to be repaid.

'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth' (published November 2010) recognises the importance of access to further education and skills training for people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. We have introduced a single adult skills budget from the 2011/12 academic year. This provides further education colleges and other training organisations with the flexibility to offer a range and balance of programmes and support in the mode of delivery that will best meet the needs of disabled students and students with learning difficulties. Funding for additional learning support is also provided to colleges and other training organisations to help support the additional needs of disadvantaged learners to enable them to participate fully in learning. The funding is intended to be flexible and support learners who have a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Empty Property: Kingston upon Hull

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department holds the *(a)* leasehold and *(b)* freehold of any (i) empty or (ii) partially empty property in Kingston upon Hull; and what plans he has to maximise the occupancy of any such properties. [86475]

Mr Davey: The Department does not have any leasehold or freehold property in Kingston-upon-Hull.

English for Speakers of other Languages

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the statement of 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 59-60WS, on English for speakers of other languages, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on developing new forms of funding support for English for speakers of other languages courses. [86567]

Mr Hayes: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Communities and Local Government are discussing how best to support the provision of English language to assist those areas facing the most significant integration challenges and an announcement will be made shortly.

Higher Education: Admissions

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what impact assessment he has carried out in respect of the effect on the social diversity of the student body at English universities of the implementation of the core and margin model. [85771]

Mr Willetts: The Department published an impact assessment and equality impact assessment on the proposals in the Higher Education White Paper in June 2011, can be found at the following link.

http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/hereform/all-documents/

Overall, our equality impact assessment concluded that we anticipated that the 'core and margin' proposals would not have an adverse affect on protected or disadvantaged groups. The impact assessment recognised that certain protected groups were over-represented in the non-AAB population. We concluded that the fair access framework we have introduced would help ensure a fair balance of places are offered to eligible students from less privileged backgrounds and under-represented backgrounds in institutions.

We have asked the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to monitor the impact of these changes in terms of equality issues and to offer advice as soon as is practicable.

Higher Education: Office of the Independent Adjudicator

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what systems are in place to monitor the work of the office of the adjudicator for higher education; and if he will make a statement. [83933]

Mr Willetts: The Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) is the designated operator of the student complaints scheme for higher education students in England and Wales. The OIA provides a valuable, independent service of last resort for students who have exhausted their institution's complaints procedures.

It is for the OIA board to monitor the performance and effectiveness of the organisation, to approve the rules and procedures for the operation of the OIA scheme and to preserve the scheme's independence. The majority of the board are independent directors, appointed through open competition.

The OIA publishes an annual report on its activities for the sector to review. The 2010 report was published on 14 June 2011:

http://www.oiahe.org.uk/media/30013/oia_annual_report_2010.pdf

BIS officials are in regular contact with the OIA and provide me with updates on their progress. I last met the OIA chair and chief executive on 6 September 2010.

Public Sector: Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 272W, on public sector: trade union officials, if he will consider bringing forward proposals to amend the relevant provisions in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 as part of the review of facility time. [86326]

Mr Davey: There are no current plans to change the legislative framework.

The Government have said they will consult on several elements of civil service facility time agreements but none of these rely on legislative change.

Regional Growth Fund

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons his Department decided to hold two bidding rounds for the Regional Growth Fund in 2011. [85157]

Mr Prisk: Two bidding rounds were held in 2011. The first closed in January, the second in July. The aim of the Regional Growth Fund is to create sustainable private sector jobs in areas of the country disproportionally dependant on the public sector. Two bidding rounds were held to create jobs at the earliest opportunity by companies and other organisations submitting applications to the first round while giving other companies and organisations the opportunity to develop bids over a slightly longer time scale by submitting applications to the second round of bidding.

Students: Fees and Charges

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made on the effects of the core and margin model on higher education institutions charging between £7,500 and £9,000 per year in tuition fees. [85514]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 8 December 2011]:* The Higher Education (HE) White Paper 'Students at the Heart of the System', published in June, set out the proposal and aims to free up the current restrictive approach to allocating student places to higher education institutions. Alongside the HE White Paper, an impact assessment of the proposals was published on the BIS website which includes modelling of that policy. This impact assessment is available at:

http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/hereform/all-documents/

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) consulted over the summer on the operation of teaching funding and student number controls in 2012/13, which included the freeing up of restrictions on the recruitment of new entrants. The outcomes from the consultation including responses, are available on the HEFCE website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/learning/funding/201213/

HEFCE is committed to monitoring closely the impacts of the new policy and will offer formal advice as soon as is practicable.

Students: Finance

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the National Scholarship Programme funding he expects to be spent on *(a)* fee waivers, *(b)* subsidised accommodation, *(c)* cash bursaries and *(d)* free foundation years. [85774]

Mr Willetts: The National Scholarship Programme is designed to benefit students whose family income is no greater than £25,000. Participating universities and colleges establish their own eligibility criteria, based on their own circumstances, to determine whom to help from among this broad group of people.

Universities and colleges offer help from a menu of options. These are a fee waiver or fee discount; a free foundation year; discounted accommodation or other institutional service; a financial scholarship or bursary, capped at £1,000.

Higher Education Institutions and Further Education Colleges with access agreements have provided the Office for Fair Access with estimates of how much they expect to spend in each of these areas under the National

Scholarship Programme in steady state (by 2015-16). No data are available yet for institutions without access agreements who have taken up the option of participating that is available to them.

Estimate	*£ million*	*Percentage*
Fee waivers	161.3	55.1
Subsidised accommodation	54.5	18.6
Cash bursaries	50.2	17.2
Free foundation years	2.3	0.8
Student choice/institutional funds not yet allocated	24.2	8.3
Total	292.5	100

Third Sector: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding over £100,000 his Department's Legal, People and Communications Directorate allocated to the *(a)* voluntary sector, *(b)* charities and *(c)* other third sector organisations in 2010-11; how much it plans to allocate to each in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [86467]

Mr Davey: The Legal, People and Communications Group did not allocate any funding over £100,000 to the voluntary sector, charities or third sector organisations last year and has no plans to do so this year.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding over £100,000 his Department's Shareholder Executive allocated to the *(a)* voluntary sector, *(b)* charities and *(c)* other third sector organisations in 2010-11; how much it plans to allocate to each in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [86468]

Mr Davey: The Shareholder Executive does not allocate any funding to the voluntary sector, charities or third sector organisations. Its role is to ensure the Government get best value from their interests in a range of businesses and to provide commercial advice across Government for which it does not charge.

Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which organisations have made written representations to his Department on the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations in the last 12 months; and which such representations proposed changes to the regulations. [86401]

Mr Davey: A range of individuals and organisations submitted proposing changes to the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) as part of the Red Tape Challenge spotlight on employment law. These can be viewed on the Red Tape Challenge website. In response to the "Plan for Growth" Balfour Beatty made a formal representation highlighting variations in the application of the Acquired Rights Directive (TUPE in the UK) across member states as an issue of concern.

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the operation of Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations compared with the operation of similar regulations elsewhere in the EU. [86443]

Mr Davey: As part of the call for evidence on the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) launched on 23 November 2011, I have asked for information on stakeholders' experiences with the implementation of such regulations across the EU. This evidence will be used to compare the operation of the regulations across European member states, should there be sufficient response.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Food

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what guidelines there are on the quality and quantity of food supplied to service personnel; what changes have been made to them since May 2010; and who is responsible for enforcing and monitoring them; [86012]

(2) what changes have been made to the suppliers of food to UK service personnel since May 2010. [86013]

Peter Luff: The Defence Fuel and Food Services Team are responsible for the issue of Ministry of Defence (MOD) food quality standards to ensure that products meet all the relevant criteria (legislation, nutrition, dietary, shelf-life, value for money, sustainability, surety of supply) required for operating in a number of unique global environments. These standards apply to all Defence food supply contracts and pre-date May 2010. They are regularly updated although no major changes have been made since May 2010.

Guidance in respect of quantity of food supplied to service personnel is contained within The Defence Catering Manual and basic military training which provides personnel with a fundamental knowledge of nutrition, to optimise physical and mental function, long-term health and morale. The manual also directs, through Front Line Commands, responsibility for enforcement and monitoring of the standards which apply to military personnel.

Although new contracts have been awarded since May 2010, the list of suppliers that provide catering services to the MOD has not changed.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the projected expenditure is on food for service personnel based *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas in each year between 2010 and 2015; [86014]

(2) how much was spent on food for service personnel based *(a)* overseas and *(b)* in the UK in each year since 2000. [86015]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* Armed forces personnel in the UK and permanent bases overseas are primarily catered for through a number of catering, retail, leisure and other multi-activity contracts (incorporating pay as you dine arrangements) to deliver this and other services. Food is procured at the contractors' risk and the only payment they receive in respect of this,

with some minor exceptions, is at the point of sale. The price of the core meal (covering breakfast, lunch and dinner) is capped by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body.

For armed forces personnel not covered by these contractual arrangements and those serving on operations and overseas exercises, there is a single food supply contract for which expenditure is as follows:

Single food supply expenditure

Financial year	*£ million*
2001-02	113
2002-03	114
2003-04	139
2004-05	128
2005-06	139
2006-07	135
2007-08	145
2008-09	176
2009-10	165
2010-11	199

These figures include the cost of food, administration and transport and the net additional cost of military operations which was met from the Treasury Reserve.

The Ministry of Defence has also procured operational ration packs over the same period for which expenditure is as follows:

Operational ration pack expenditure

Financial year	*£ million*
2001-02	14.6
2002-03	16.6
2003-04	26.7
2004-05	23.7
2005-06	15.6
2006-07	15.3
2007-08	18.1
2008-09	25.4
2009-10	23.3
2010-11	36.4

Financial records prior to financial year 2001-02 are no longer available.

Forecast expenditure does not take account of military operations. The forecast cost for the single food supply contract and operational ration packs are contained in the following tables:

Single food supply forecast expenditure

Financial year	*£ million*
2011-12	59.6
2012-13	55.6
2013-14	53.0
2014-15	47.7

Operational ration pack forecast expenditure

Financial year	*£ million*
2011-12	19.6
2012-13	20.9
2013-14	21.4
2014-15	21.9

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards; [85848]

(2) what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure the country of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85849]

Peter Luff: In accordance with the Government Buying Standards, we fully support the overarching commitment that suppliers should be able to indicate the origin of the meat, meat products and dairy products either on the menu or accompanying literature, or at least when the information is requested by the consumer. The Government Buying Standards, while not mandating calorie labelling on menus, does cite this as best practice and therefore we encourage the practice wherever possible.

Menus on display boards at Ministry of Defence (MOD) sites are designed to simply reflect the options available at each meal. This information will include any vegetarian options or where a dish may contain any potential allergens. Country of origin data and nutritional data are available from the food provider or the MOD's Defence Fuel and Food Services Team on request.

Consultants

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department plans to spend on management consultants in the current financial year. [81929]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 23 November 2011]:* As at 31 October 2011, the Ministry of Defence's forecast spend on management consultancy during financial year (FY) 2011-12 will total £25.5 million. This has been calculated using the Government Procurement Service's definition of management consultancy. Total spend on management consultancy in FY 2010-11 was £26 million and in FY 2009-10, £79 million.

Procurement

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts awarded by his Department to management consultants *(a)* since publication of the Strategic Defence and Security Review and *(b)* in 2011-12 were awarded after competitive tendering; and how many competing providers there were for each contract awarded after competitive tendering. [82198]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 23 November 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence is at present conducting a review of its management consultancy contracts. I will therefore write to the hon. Member with further details once the review has been completed.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85933]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence received 3,698 ordinary written questions for answer between 1 June 2010 and 6 December 2011. The information requested is as follows:

Answered within 10 sitting days: 3,303 (89%)

Answered within 11 to 20 sitting days: 264 (7%)

Answered within 21 to 30 sitting days: 53 (2%)

Answered after more than 30 sitting days: 32 (1%).

46 (1%) ordinary written questions were still to be answered as at 7 December 2011.

The Government are committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Ex-servicemen

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times each Minister in his Department has met the Royal British Legion to discuss armed forces veterans since 11 May 2011. [84082]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* Defence Ministers regularly meet representatives of charities which raise money for, and represent the interests of, current and former members of our armed forces and their families, either on a one-to-one basis or as part of wider fora, such as the Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation or the Ministry of Defence's Welfare conference.

Details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on the Ministry of Defence website at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/Expenses/MinistersHospitalityReceived.htm

The information currently published covers May 2010 to June 2011 and is being updated on a quarterly basis in accordance with the Government's transparency programme.

I regularly meet representatives of the Royal British Legion. I met their director-general as recently as last month, on Remembrance Sunday.

GPT

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates officials of Ministers of his Department have met representatives of GPT to discuss allegations of bribery by that company. [83175]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Officials in the Ministry of Defence meet regularly with representatives of GPT Special Project Management Ltd to discuss project progress and technical and commercial matters. On a number of occasions officials have met representatives of GPT and/or its parent company, European Aerospace and Defence Systems (EADS)/Astrium, when the allegations were discussed. The dates of such meetings, all in 2011, were:

28 January;

1 and 8 February;

7, 10 and 28 March;

11 April;

6 and 17 June;

22 September;

10, 11, 14 and 25 October; and

18 November.

Harrier Aircraft

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the Harrier fleet is due to be transferred to the US; and on what date he plans to reconstitute sea-deployable fixed-wing air power at short notice. [86213]

Peter Luff: The transfer of the Harrier fleet for use as spare parts to the USA has commenced with the arrival of 40 United States Marine Corps containers at RAF Cottesmore. The Harrier team are now loading the containers for removal and all Harrier assets are to be removed from UK collection points by 31 March 2012.

As announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, we plan to regenerate a carrier strike capability from around 2020, based upon an operational Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier fitted with catapults and arrestor gear and the F35C Joint Strike Fighter, and are currently investigating the optimum solution to meet that requirement, including the delivery timescales.

HMS Astute

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans that HMS Astute will be fully operational. [85427]

Peter Luff: HMS Astute is currently undertaking a period of comprehensive sea trials and training before being handed over to the Royal Navy for operational service, which on current plans will be in early 2013. HMS Astute will then conduct a period of operational sea training for approximately six weeks, after which it is planned that the ship will be declared fully operational.

Littoral Warfare

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the availability is of UK amphibious forces for long-range deployment; and if he will make a statement. [86212]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* We do not disclose specific readiness levels of our units but by implementing the proposals set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, three Commando Brigade Royal Marines, with the Royal Navy's amphibious shipping, will continue to provide strategic reach. This will provide an agile and capable amphibious landing force of up to 1,800 personnel together with protective vehicles and other equipment.

Navy: Training

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many naval personnel he plans will be trained using the Maritime Composite Training System in each of the next five years [85426]

Peter Luff: It is expected that the Maritime Composite Training System will be used by approximately 1,000 students per year in each of the next five years.

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to publish the costs associated with the cancellation of the Nimrod MR4A aircraft. [85591]

Peter Luff: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests.

Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the withdrawal from service of the Sea King Search and Rescue helicopters on the ability to maintain combat search and rescue operational skills. [85588]

Peter Luff: As the Sea King retires after 47 years of service the Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) role is expected to be met by Merlin or Chinook helicopters.

A Ministry of Defence study dated June 2010 found that the existing operational training undertaken by the support helicopter force is sufficient to ensure that fully trained personnel will continue to be available for deployment in the CSAR role.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Maritime Coastguard Agency and *(b)* Secretary of State for Transport on the provision of night vision goggles to civilian search and rescue helicopter crews from 2016. [85592]

Peter Luff: The competition for the future UK Search and Rescue Helicopter service announced on 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 52-53WS, by the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), will require industry to provide a capability, both aircraft and aircrew, that meets the requirement to operate aircraft safely at low level at night and in low light conditions in both the maritime and overland environments. It is likely that the contractor will need to provide night vision aids, e.g. goggles, to meet this requirement, but it is for them to develop appropriate solutions. These requirements have been developed through detailed work by officials from the Ministry of Defence, Department for Transport and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. It has not been necessary for the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), to be involved in these discussions.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to promote greater international military co-operation on pre-emptive action to prevent piracy off the coast of Somalia. [86085]

Nick Harvey: The UK continues to promote international co-operation to tackle piracy; both at its root through provision of humanitarian and development assistance and through a direct contribution to a number of military operations. In addition, the Prime Minister has recently announced a conference on Somalia to be held in London in early 2012, reaffirming UK commitment to the global effort in stabilising Somalia which includes countering piracy. The conference will form the basis for co-ordinated and sustained international leadership on Somalia and will support a broader, more inclusive political process to bring security and stability to the country.

Salvage Licences

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what wrecks of Crown owned vessels and aircraft have been sold for salvage. [86051]

Peter Luff: Records of salvage licences dating back to 1914 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Readily available files show that no salvage rights licences for military vessels have been granted since at least 2005.

The Ministry of Defence does not grant salvage licences in cases where military shipwrecks are considered to be the last resting place of personnel, and for all wrecks of military aircraft. However, historic licences will have been granted in accordance with the prevailing practice of the time.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 14 December 2011

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which airports are taking part in pilot testing of EU Regulation 185/2010. [85174]

Mrs Villiers: The trial of the alternative process for the screening of religious headgear is being undertaken at many UK airports. These are listed as follows:

UK airports participating in headgear trial

Aberdeen
Belfast City Airport
Birmingham
Blackpool
Bristol
Cardiff
East Midlands
Edinburgh
Gatwick
Glasgow
Heathrow
HIAL—Barra, Benbecula, Campbeltown, Dundee, Islay, Inverness, Kirkwall, Stornoway, Sumburgh, Tiree and Wick
London City
Luton
Manchester
Newcastle
Newquay
Norwich
Oxford
Southampton
Stansted
Guernsey
Jersey

Buses: Licensing

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) on how many occasions the traffic commissioners have granted or renewed PCV licences to people who have subsequently been found not to have fully declared their criminal records in the most recent period for which figures are available; [85751]

(2) on how many occasions the traffic commissioners revoked people's passenger carrying vehicle licences on the grounds that at the time of original application or application for renewal they had not fully declared their criminal records in the most recent period for which figures are available. [85871]

Mike Penning: The traffic commissioners' decisions are not held centrally or by reason and currently could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. I have, however, asked my officials to look into the feasibility of holding these decisions centrally in the future.

Electric Vehicles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had on electric cars with the Mayor of London. [82955]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has not yet had the opportunity to meet with the Mayor of London to discuss electric cars.

Motor Vehicles: Carbon Emissions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with her European counterparts on vehicle emissions. [82964]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State has not yet had any such discussions since her appointment, but the Department for Transport has regular discussions with our EU counterparts.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether the House of Commons catering service plans to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards. [85864]

John Thurso: The House of Commons catering service recognises that it has a role to play in encouraging people to choose healthier foods. It currently achieves this by using a 'traffic light' system of signposting healthier choices on its daily cafeteria menus and by running periodic 'healthy eating' promotions.

Although the service currently has no plans to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards, it is watching with interest the development of this initiative by the commercial catering organisations that have pledged to do so under the Government's 'Public Health Responsibility Deal' launched in March 2011.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what steps the House of Commons catering service is taking to ensure the countries of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85865]

John Thurso: The House of Commons catering service recognises that the provenance of foods served in its restaurants is of interest to its customers, and its sustainable food procurement policy is being updated. The service does not plan to publish as a matter of course details about the countries of origin of foods on its menus and display boards, although the provenance of the main ingredient may sometimes be indicated in the description.

CABINET OFFICE

Business

Alun Cairns: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how small and medium-sized enterprises in Vale of Glamorgan constituency can bid for central Government ICT facilities management contracts. [86432]

Mr Letwin: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Calder Valley (Craig Whittaker) at Cabinet Office oral questions today.

Cabinet Sub-Committee on Infrastructure

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the membership is of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Infrastructure. [85369]

Mr Maude: Membership of the Infrastructure Sub-Committee is as follows:

Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Chair) (The Rt Hon. Danny Alexander MP)

Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Deputy Chair) (The Rt Hon. Oliver Letwin MP)

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (The Rt Hon. Dr Vince Cable MP)

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (The Rt Hon. Chris Huhne MP)

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (The Rt Hon. Eric Pickles MP)

Secretary of State for Transport (The Rt Hon. Justine Greening MP)

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (The Rt Hon. Caroline Spelman MP)

Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (The Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP)

Minister of State for Trade and Investment (Lord Green)

Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon)

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Crime Prevention) (James Brokenshire MP)

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Defence Equipment, Support and Technology) (Peter Luff MP)

Departmental Secondment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role; [86147]

(2) what secondments there have been to 10 Downing street from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86148]

Mr Maude: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office and is included in the reply.

Since May 2010, there have been 23 secondments into my Department from industry and one secondment from a third sector organisation.

These secondments ranged in duration from two months to two years, at an average duration of eight months.

Such secondment arrangements form part of the Cabinet Office's strategy to bring in expertise relevant to policy development, operational delivery or specialist areas such as procurement and digital delivery from commercial and third sector organisations, as well as the wider public sector.

Private and Public Sector: Females

Jessica Morden: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the proportion of people working in the *(a)* private sector and *(b)* public sector in Wales; and what proportion are female in each case. [86652]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the proportion of people working in the (a) private sector and (b) public sector in Wales; and what proportion are female in each case. [086652]

Public Sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Individuals in the APS are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the survey.

Table 1 shows the proportion of people employed in public and private sector in Wales and the proportion of those employed in the public and private sector who are female. The figures have been provided from the APS for the 12 month periods April 2010 to March 2011, the latest period for which figures are available.

Table 1: Proportion of people employed in (a) public and (b) private sector in Wales and proportion of those employed in public and private sector who are female—April 2010 to March 2011

	Proportion (%)	
	Public	*Private*
Wales	31.2	68.8
of which female	64.1	40.2

Source:
Annual Population Survey

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Senior Civil Servants: Meetings

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what rules govern the *(a)* declaration and *(b)* recording of meetings held by senior civil servants. [86198]

Mr Maude: Meetings are recorded in accordance with departmental procedures on record keeping. The National Archives also produces "Guidance on the Management of Private Office Papers" which can be accessed at:

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/information-management/popapersguidance2009.pdf

Social Exclusion

Mark Tami: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment his Department has made of the role of the big society initiative in tackling social exclusion. [86420]

Mr Letwin: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Leicester South (Jonathan Ashworth) at Cabinet Office oral questions earlier today.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment Schemes

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding has been earmarked for job retention in the Work Choice Programme. [85986]

Maria Miller: All customers who enter employment through Work Choice are entitled to have support enabling them to retain their employment. Providers receive an overall service fee for delivering a range of services, rather than a specific payment for retention work.

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were *(a)* referred to Workstep for support in retaining their existing job in each year in which the scheme operated and *(b)* referred to Work Choice since 2010. [85988]

Maria Miller: The Department did not collect data about individuals who have been referred to Workstep for support to retain their existing job.

In line with UK Statistics Authority guidance, we will be publishing official statistics on referrals to Work Choice in spring 2012.

Housing Benefit: Females

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 396W, on housing benefit: females, how many lone parents receive local housing allowance in Wales; and what proportion of such claimants are female. [86627]

Steve Webb: The information requested on lone parents in Wales receiving housing benefit paid according to the local housing allowance scheme and the percentage that are female is provided in the following table:

	Lone parents	
	Local housing allowance tenants (LHA)	*Percentage that are female*
Wales	22,030	94.3

Notes:
1. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Percentage has been rounded to the nearest decimal place.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases. An extended payment is a payment that may be received for a further four weeks when they start working full time, work more hours or earn more money.
4. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns.
5. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and August 2011 is the latest available.
6. For this analysis lone parents are those who are single with child dependant(s).
7. Caseload figure includes less than 1% of cases where gender is not recorded/missing.
8. Local housing allowance was introduced in the Private Deregulated sector from April 2008. The methodology for recording claimants within the statistics as either LHA/non-LHA is under review.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) Aug-11

Pensioners: Income

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate has been made of the number of pensioners whose incomes exceed the average income of an individual in employment. [86062]

Steve Webb: Table 1 shows the number of pensioners living in a household with an equivalised income greater than the median equivalised income for households where at least one member is in some form of employment (this could either be full- or part-time employment).

Results both Before Housing Costs and After Housing Costs have been provided. For Before Housing Costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Costs they are.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 pensioners and proportions rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Table 1: The number of pensioners living in households with an income greater than the median household income where at least one member of the household is employed, United Kingdom, 2009-10

	Number of pensioners (million)	*Proportion of pensioners (%)*
Before Housing Costs	3.3	29
After Housing Costs	4.1	36

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from both income measures. In addition a measure of housing costs are also deducted from the After Housing Cost incomes.
3. Analysis has been carried out based on equivalised household incomes. This takes an adult couple with no children as the reference point. For example, the process of equivalisation would adjust the income of a single pensioner upwards, so that we can use income to directly compare their standard of living with a working-age couple without children.
4. The median equivalised income for households where at least one member of the household is employed is; £485 per week Before Housing Costs and £424 per week After Housing Costs.
5. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
6. The reference period for HBAI figures is the financial year.
7. Measures for pensioners are generally on an After Housing Costs basis. This is because pensioners are far more likely to own their homes outright and so receive value from housing, without having to pay for rent or mortgage payments out of their current income. So for assessing pensioner poverty a Before Housing Costs basis does not provide a good comparison of living standards.

Council Tax Benefits

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average annual council tax benefit payment was for a *(a)* pensioner household and *(b)* household including at least one person of working age in each local authority area in 2010-11. [85343]

Steve Webb: The information has been placed in the Library.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Assets: Birmingham

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assets his Department owns in Birmingham; and what the book value is of each such asset. [85452]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government leases two buildings in Birmingham. They are: 5 St Philips Place, Colmore Row and 77 Paradise Circus. The leases for both properties are rack-rented operating leases and as such they have no asset value to the Department.

Council Tax

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of each representation he has received from local authorities on the need for changes to single person's council tax discount. [86667]

Robert Neill: All responses to the Government's consultation on Localising Council Tax Support will be considered and a summary of responses will be published shortly. However, as indicated by my noble Friend, Baroness Hanham, on 3 November 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA292, the Government have already made it clear that they do not intend to make changes to the council tax single person discount scheme.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in each local authority area are eligible for the single person's discount on council tax. [86668]

Robert Neill: Details of the number of people in each local authority in England that are recorded as being in receipt of the single person's discount for council tax purposes as at 3 October 2011 are available on line 8 of the table "Council tax base local authority level data 2011", which is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/counciltaxbase2011

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost of establishing local schemes for distributing council tax benefit in each local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [86670]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer given on 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 225W, to the right hon. Member for East Ham (Stephen Timms).

Council Tax Benefits: Expenditure

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the level of expenditure on council tax benefit in each local authority in 2010-11; and how much such expenditure was incurred in respect of *(a)* pensioner and *(b)* working-age households in each such authority. [85342]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The information has been placed in the Library.

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards. [85854]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government and its public bodies' caterers are contracted to comply with Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering Services. Calorie labelling forms part of an evolving strategy to offer a choice of diet to our staff. We are working with the Department for Education on a shared services arrangement and negotiating a new total Facilities Management Contract, which will be in place from April 2012. This contract will conform to Government Buying Solutions Standards and calorie labelling will form part of the new contract.

This answer incorporates all of the Department and its associated public bodies, with the exception of the Planning Inspectorate, where the information was not readily available.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure the countries of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85855]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government and its public bodies' caterers are contracted to comply with Government Buying Standards for food and catering services and information on country of origin is available through the supply chain where requested. We are negotiating a new total facilities management contract, which will be in place from April 2012. This contract will conform to Government Buying Solutions Standards and we will work with the new catering supplier to improve the degree and quality of information provided to customers.

This answer incorporates all of the Department and its associated public bodies, with the exception of the Planning Inspectorate, where the information was not readily available.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will consider amending the requirements for energy performance certificates to be made available when a residential property is put up for sale to include information on floor area and energy usage; and if he will make a statement. [86449]

Andrew Stunell: Energy performance certificates already contain information about a dwelling's floor area and energy usage and must be made available to prospective purchasers within 28 days of a property being marketed for sale. We are making a number of changes to the energy performance certificate to significantly improve its format and content and ensure that it effectively supports the Green Deal. The revised energy performance certificate will be released in April 2012.

Government Procurement Card

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Great Yarmouth of 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 782W, on the Government Procurement Card, which Minister in his Department visited Auckland in March 2007; and what the purpose of the visit was. [81608]

Robert Neill: The then Under-Secretary of State (Angela E Smith) visited Auckland in March 2007 to attend the Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2007.

Housing: Finance

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account his Department took of population variations between local authority areas in determining allocation of the New Homes Bonus. [86196]

Grant Shapps: The New Homes Bonus is based on the number of additional homes and those brought back into use, with a premium for affordable homes. Through the bonus, local authority areas which are growing in population will have more resources to meet the needs and aspirations of new and existing residents.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons he *(a)* reduced the housing budget in 2010-11 and *(b)* increased the housing budget in 2011-12. [86332]

Grant Shapps: The last Administration left the biggest budget deficit in our peacetime history, with the state forecast to borrow £146 billion a year in 2010-11, or £400 million being borrowed every single day. This was unsustainable. The coalition Government, through the Emergency Budget and spending review, have taken steps to tackle this deficit, restoring market confidence. These measures will help eliminate the structural current deficit over the next five years. This will help keep interest rates down for home owners, restore economic stability and reduce the amount of taxpayers' money that would otherwise be spent on debt interest.

Within the agreed public spending envelope, we have taken steps to support house building, given the important contribution it makes to economic growth and the need to build more homes in light of demographic change. This has included using departmental unallocated funding to support housing (e.g. the Growing Places Fund). We have also configured our housing policies to tackle the particular problems currently being faced in the housing market:

Lenders are not lending enough—with high deposit requirements excluding young people and families from home ownership. Hence, we are promoting schemes such as Firstbuy, extending the Right to Buy and supporting a new and innovative new build indemnity scheme.

Builders are not building—without consumers ready to buy, and without enough land for development or access to finance. Hence, we are promoting policies such as the Getting Britain Building investment fund and the Build Now, Pay Later programme for public sector land.

We are also investing £4.5 billion in new affordable housing over the spending review period and £2.1 billion on Decent Homes to improve the condition of existing social housing.

Local Government: Land

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* brownfield, *(b)* green-belt and *(c)* green-field land is owned by each local authority in England. [85914]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* There were an estimated 5,350 hectares of brownfield land owned by local authorities in England in 2009, according to the National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land. A table showing the amounts and number of sites by local authority has been placed in the Library of the House.

No information is available on the amount of local authority owned green-belt or green-field land.

My Department is taking a series of steps to encourage the development and regeneration of brownfield sites, as outlined in my answer of 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 123W.

New Deal for Communities Scheme

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what work has been carried out in each borough under the New Deal for Communities scheme; and what work carried out under the New Deal for Communities scheme has been continued following the ending of the scheme. [83268]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* A table providing a summary of priorities for each of the 39 New Deal for Communities areas and details of projects developed by the Communities partnerships for each area has been deposited in the Library of the House. The Department does not have a full picture of the completion of all projects across the programme, which is a matter for the individual partnerships, their successor bodies and, where different, the local authorities in those areas. The National Evaluation of the Communities programme, published in March 2010, concluded that the New Deal for Communities had delivered improvements and that, in general, they had narrowed the gaps with the rest of the country in relation to six broad themes: crime, health, worklessness, education, community cohesion, and housing and the environment. Three quarters of New Deal for Communities have agreed succession strategies so that the benefits and improvements made over the life of the programme can be sustained into the longer term.

Non-domestic Rates

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the amount of business rates revenue which will be lost to each local authority as a result of schools becoming academies in the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [86666]

Robert Neill: None. Business rates reliefs for ratepayers are an integral part of the business rates system and we have no plans to amend them. Mandatory relief should be granted if a ratepayer meets the eligibility criteria.

Planning Permission

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on minimum density requirements in planning policy. [86232]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not recently commissioned any research specifically on minimum density requirements in planning policy. Whitehall minimum density requirements were abolished in June 2010 to help councils protect residential neighbourhoods from unwanted 'garden grabbing'. The draft National Planning Policy Framework asks local planning authorities to set their own approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances. Consultation on the draft framework has now closed and we are now considering all the responses.

Planning Permission: Urban Areas

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) for what reasons the inclusion of offices in the sequential town centre test contained in Planning Policy Statement 6 has not been carried over to the draft National Planning Policy Framework; [85913]

(2) pursuant to the oral answer of 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 15, on high street development, whether it is his policy to include offices in the sequential town centre test. [86023]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* A draft new National Planning Policy Framework was published for consultation in July 2011. We are now giving very careful consideration to all responses received to the consultation, before publishing a final version of the framework.

WALES

Government: Ministerial Meetings

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) on what date she last met the Secretary of State for Transport to discuss the implications for Wales of High Speed 2; [86262]

(2) on what date she last had a bilateral meeting with the Cabinet Secretary to discuss matters relating to Wales; and if she will publish a minute of the meeting; [86263]

(3) on what date she last had a bilateral meeting with the Minister for political and constitutional reform to discuss matters relating to Wales; and if she will publish a minute of the meeting; [86264]

(4) on what date she last met the Government spokesperson for Welsh affairs in the House of Lords; and if she will publish a minute of the meeting; [86265]

(5) on what date she last met the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to discuss the effects of the Government's Work programme on Wales; [86270]

(6) on what date she last met the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss the implications for Wales of his autumn statement; [86271]

(7) on what date she last met the Home Secretary to discuss levels of crime in Wales; [86272]

(8) on what date she last had a bilateral meeting with each other Cabinet Minister to discuss matters relating to Wales; and if she will publish a minute of each meeting; [86278]

(9) on how many occasions she has met the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to discuss the implications for Welsh businesses of the proposed abolition of the feed-in tariff; [86297]

(10) on what date she last met the Secretary of State for Justice to discuss prisons in Wales. [86269]

Mrs Gillan: Both the Under-Secretary of State for Wales, my hon. Friend the Member for Clwyd West (Mr Jones), and I regularly meet ministerial colleagues and senior officials across Government to discuss matters of importance to Wales. In line with the practice of successive Administrations, information relating to internal advice and discussion is not normally disclosed.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Females

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Afghan Government on the involvement of women in the political processes at all levels in Afghanistan; [86161]

(2) if he will press the Afghan Government to ensure that women have an effective voice and role in all levels of the peace process in that country. [86162]

Alistair Burt: At the International Conference on Afghanistan in Bonn on 5 December, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), stated that:

"The principle of inclusiveness is vital, so that all Afghanistan's people have a stake in the country's future".

The Conference, chaired by Afghanistan, agreed a clear set of guiding principles for the reconciliation process and its outcomes and also an inclusive, representative peace process. The Conference also made it clear that the fundamental rights of women and children are key for Afghanistan's future.

The Government's International Violence Against Women Champion, the Minister for Equalities, the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone), also attended the Civil Society Forum on Afghanistan held in Bonn on 2-3 December, where she reiterated the UK Government's commitment to an inclusive political process in Afghanistan and the importance of the protection of Afghan women's rights.

We will continue to make clear it to the Government of Afghanistan that any political process should be inclusive and address the concerns of all Afghan citizens.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85638]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Internal Audit Department provides internal audit services to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, its Executive Agency (Wilton Park) and Trading Fund (FCO Services). This activity provides their accounting officers with an overall opinion on risk management, control and governance arrangements, as required by HM Treasury. For each of these bodies a discrete annual programme of work is agreed with their Audit Committee and the Permanent Under-Secretary (FCO) or Chief Executives of FCO Services and Wilton Park, as appropriate. The criteria used for deciding what to audit and when are as follows.

FCO

FCO Internal Audit works in the context of the FCO's risk management framework, an approach generally known as risk-based internal auditing. There is an annually agreed strategy setting out which areas of the FCO should be audited. There are two distinct approaches within the strategy: one for the risks in the UK and the other for overseas risk. For the home programme the strategy takes account of FCO risk registers, known and expected business change, input from FCO Directors and the risk of fraud and reputational damage. For the overseas network a risk model is used to help prioritise posts in terms of risk. Within any given year, the timing of an actual audit is at the discretion of the auditor leading it, unless management has expressed a particular view (i.e. because of the timing of other reviews or anticipated changes to the systems in question). Other issues around timing include logistics and, overseas, security. FCO Internal Audit also conducts some audits without notice.

FCO Services

The methodology for selecting audits is very similar to the FCO except that FCO Services adopts a three-year strategy (with an annual review) and audits are carried out exclusively in the UK. The methodology to populate the strategy with individual audits is risk based and takes account of FCO Services risk registers, discussion with senior management, forward objectives, key performance indicators and a review of other sources of assurance. Within any given year the timing of an actual audit is at the discretion of the auditor leading it unless management has expressed a particular view which it would be sensible to accommodate.

Wilton Park

FCO Internal Audit prepares a three-year strategy which is then reviewed and approved each year by the Audit Committee and Chief Executive. The methodology to populate the strategy with individual audits is risk based and takes account of business changes and input from the Finance and Operations Directors. It takes account of the risk of fraud and reputational damage and considers all other sources of assurance. Audits are carried out exclusively in the UK and the exact timing of an audit is a collaborative decision involving Wilton Park senior staff and the lead auditor. Timing takes into account seasonal peaks in business activity and the availability of audit staff.

Economic and Monetary Union

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for New Forest East of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 863W, on Europe: politics and government, what assessment he has made of the potential effects of fiscal union between the states of the Eurozone on the maintenance of *(a)* elected, *(b)* representative and *(c)* democratic Governments in those states; what discussions he had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on such effects, prior to the Government recommending fiscal union for the states of the Eurozone; and if he will make a statement. [84842]

Mr Lidington: It is for each individual country of the Eurozone to assess the effects of fiscal union on these three issues. The UK remains committed to both a strong and stable Eurozone and to liberal democratic values. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Treasury ministerial teams work very closely in developing policy on the EU.

European Union: Treaties

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any new European Treaty will be subject to a referendum. [85897]

Mr Lidington: Under the European Union Act 2011, any Treaty change which transfers competence or power from the UK to the will require a referendum of the British people. The Act clearly defines what is meant by a transfer of competence or power.

Japan: Whaling

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many discussions he has had with the Japanese ambassador on Japan's annual whaling hunt. [86653]

Mr Jeremy Browne: This Government support the International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium on commercial whaling because we believe strongly that the annual whaling hunt involves unacceptable cruelty. Although the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has not had the opportunity to raise this issue with the current ambassador of Japan, both he and I raised it during our visits to Japan late last year. Ministers and senior officials will continue to convey our concerns with the Japanese Government when suitable opportunities arise.

Libya: Arms Trade

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will press the new Libyan authorities to ensure that the terms of the compensation package to be offered to victims of the IRA's Libyan-supplied semtex campaign do not distinguish between those police or military personnel killed on duty and those off duty at the time of the attacks. [86591]

Alistair Burt: Properly addressing legacy issues will be an important part of the UK's relationship with Libya. I raised this with the Libyan Transitional Government during my visit to Tripoli on 6 to 8 December. I made clear our desire to see progress on outstanding issues from the Gaddafi era. The newly appointed Foreign Minister Ashour Ben Khayyal agreed that we would take forward discussions on this.

The campaigns seeking compensation for IRA victims are private. The terms of the campaigns and the range of victims are therefore also private. However, we understand at this stage that no settlement has been made.

Saudi Arabia: Politics and Government

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the findings of the report by Amnesty International entitled Saudi Arabia: Repression in the name of Security; and if he will make a statement. [86046]

Alistair Burt: The Amnesty international report on Saudi Arabia summarises the current human rights situation in Saudi Arabia. It covers the draft anti-terror law, detentions and trials, and freedom of expression. Our embassy in Riyadh has been engaged in a dialogue with the Saudi Arabian Government on these issues for some time. There is widespread acceptance in the Saudi Government and Saudi human rights organisations that the draft anti-terror law is unsuitable in its present form: the current draft is extremely unlikely to pass into law. Our embassy has raised the issue of arbitrary detentions with the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice and has been given permission to attend a forthcoming terror trial.

We have asked the Saudi authorities for more information with regard to the case referred to in the Report, which concerns 16 men convicted under anti-terror legislation to sentences ranging from five to 30 years, before we determine our next course of action. Freedom of expression concerns largely relate to the periods of unrest in the Eastern Province this year. Following the most recent outbreak of unrest in November, we note the Saudi Arabian Government issued a statement that security forces have been instructed to exercise restraint. We welcome the willingness of Saudi human rights organisations to engage with Amnesty on human rights concerns, which will raise awareness of the progress made by Saudi Arabia to date and give greater clarity on the requirements for further reform.

Sergei Magnitsky

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has given any consideration to bringing forward proposals similar to the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act proposed in the US Congress. [86072]

Mr Lidington: We are aware of the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, introduced to the US Congress in 2011, which, if passed, would see sanctions imposed on Russian officials allegedly responsible for the detention, abuse, or death of Sergei Magnitsky.

The Immigration Rules enable us to refuse a visa where, for example, information on an individual's character, conduct or associations makes entry to the UK undesirable. However, the UK has a long established practice of not commenting routinely on individual visa cases.

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking together with his EU counterparts in response to the death in custody of Sergei Magnitsky. [86073]

Mr Lidington: We have discussed Mr Magnitsky's arrest, detention and death with a number of our European partners who share our concerns. The EU raised this case during EU-Russia Human Rights Consultations in November.

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken in respect of the death in custody of Sergei Magnitsky. [86208]

Mr Lidington: We have repeatedly made clear to the Russian Government our concerns about Mr Magnitsky's arrest, detention and death, most recently during the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow in September, where he discussed this case with President Medvedev. The Prime Minister also referred to the Magnitsky case as a high profile human rights concern in Russia during his speech on 'Foreign Policy in the National Interest' on 14 November. We will continue to urge the Russian Government to complete a thorough and transparent investigation into this case and bring to justice those responsible for Mr Magnitsky's death.

Steria

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts his Department has awarded to Steria since May 2010; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* net worth was of each contract. [85477]

Mr Lidington: It is longstanding Foreign and Commonwealth Office practice not to comment on the detail of its security contracts or its security systems.

Turkey: Human Rights

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his contribution of 9 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 304, on the middle east and north Africa,

what discussions he had with the President of Turkey on *(a)* human rights and *(b)* the Kurdish minority in Turkey. [86361]

Mr Lidington: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), did not have any substantive meetings with the President of Turkey during the state visit.

During the state visit there were several meetings between members of the Government and members of the Turkish delegation. A very wide range of topics was discussed. We do not reveal the details of private diplomatic exchanges.

Our embassy in Ankara regularly raises human rights with the relevant Turkish authorities. We will continue to monitor developments in human rights and issues surrounding the Kurdish minorities.

Zimbabwe: Diamonds

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his UN counterparts on the decision to lift the embargo on the sale of diamonds originating from Zimbabwe; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the decision on the sanctions regime that has been placed on Zimbabwe. [86509]

Mr Bellingham: The EU, which represents Britain in the Kimberley Process (KP), had discussions with all 50 KP participants ahead of the KP Plenary meeting in Kinshasa in November. I have discussed diamond exports from the Marange region of Zimbabwe with the Governments of South Africa, the United States of America and Belgium.

The Kinshasa agreement does not impact on the EU Restricted Measures, which are up for their annual review by the 27 EU member states in February 2012.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the response to her Department's consultation entitled More effective responses to anti social behaviour. [85488]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has received over 1,000 written responses to the consultation from the police and other front-line professionals, members of the judiciary, local authorities, interest groups and members of the public. We want to ensure that our proposals reflect that wealth of knowledge and expertise, and will publish our response in due course.

Arrest Warrants

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people returned to the UK under the European Arrest Warrant returned to *(a)* face prosecution and *(b)* served an existing sentence in each year since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [78625]

Damian Green: Due to the way that the data are recorded, it is not possible for these figures to be broken down by the number returned to face prosecution or to serve an existing sentence in each year without a manual examination of each individual case file. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

Avon and Somerset Constabulary: Finance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much core funding her Department allocated to Avon and Somerset police authority in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12; and how much it plans to allocate in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in 2012-13. [86223]

Nick Herbert: The funding figures for Avon and Somerset police authority were:

(a) £116.4 million (2008-09);

(b) £115.1 million (2009-10);

(c) £118.5 million (2010-11);

(d) £120.9 million (2011-12).

The provisional resource allocation for 2012-13 is £112.7 million.

Civil Disorder

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many firms of loss adjusters have been employed by police forces to assess claims for compensation under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 arising from the civil disorder of August 2011; at what rate firms have been remunerated; and what the total amount of fees paid to such firms has been, at the most recent date for which figures are available. [85572]

Nick Herbert: This information is not collected centrally. However, these data are available from the respective police authorities.

Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in her Department in each of the last 12 months. [73667]

Damian Green: As part of the interviewing for the new Metropolitan Police Commissioner, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), provided a working lunch at a cost of £32.83.

No other events have been hosted by Ministers of the Home Department where hospitality has been provided; this excludes the de minimus levels of expenditure on teas, coffees and light refreshments.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she receives any external funding for *(a)* her ministerial office and *(b)* her advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77590]

Damian Green: The Home Office does not receive any external funding for ministerial offices or for special advisers.

Domestic Violence

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the classification and recording of convictions for offences against a partner as domestic violence offences. [84903]

Lynne Featherstone: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) already records domestic violence convictions. The recently published CPS Violence Against Women and Girls Crime Report shows that in the last year (2010-11) the proportion of defendants convicted for domestic violence offences has stayed steady at 72%, against an 11% increase in both the volume of defendants prosecuted (82,187) and convicted (59,101).

Domestic Violence: Homicide

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were killed by a current or former partner in each year since 2006. [83698]

Lynne Featherstone: The available data are given in the table and are taken from the Home Office Homicide Index and relate to homicides recorded by police forces in England and Wales, including the British Transport Police.

Data for 2010-11 will be available in January 2012.

Partner/ex-partner homicides currently[1] recorded by relationship of victim to principal suspect, 2005-06 to 2009-10, England and Wales

Number

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Men	22	30	34	31	21
Women	90	91	79	101	95
Total	112	121	113	132	116

1. As at 28 September 2010; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

Source:
Home Office Homicide Index

Habitual Residence Test

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the habitual residence test. [81663]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

We have strict rules in place to prevent abuse of the benefit system and to prevent benefit tourism. One of the principal measures is the habitual residence test. The test ensures that people coming from abroad can only access income-related benefits if they have a right to reside and are habitually resident in the Common Travel Area[1]. The Department for Work and Pensions is considering all the details of the European Commission's Reasoned Opinion against the right to reside element of the habitual residence test and is committed to taking the necessary steps to ensure the UK retains control of its welfare policies.

[1] The UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, and the Republic of Ireland.

Immigrants: Detainees

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the detention data in Immigration Statistics April to June 2011, table dt.07.q, for what reasons each of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24 months has not been removed from the UK. [82103]

Damian Green: The following table sets out the total length of stay in the UK of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24 months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April to June 2011.

Length of time (in years) in the UK based on first application raised	*Number of individuals*
3	7
4	7
5	13
6	5
7	6
8	10
9	7
10	4
11	5
12	3
13	1
14	1
15	1
17	2
18	1
20	1

The following table sets out the reasons why the 74 individuals detained for more than 24 months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April to June 2011 had not been removed from the UK. As the table shows, five of the individuals have now been removed from the UK. This information is taken from internal management information and is subject to change.

Barriers to removal	*Number of individuals*
Travel document	39
Appeals	6
Children issues	1
Country situation	1
Nationality not confirmed	1
Judicial review	15
Awaiting removal: multiple barriers	4
Rule 39[1]	2
Removed	5

[1] This is a request to the European court of human rights (under rule 39) that an applicant should not be removed from the UK.

Of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24 months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April to June 2011, 53 lodged an appeal against their deportation. In addition to this:

29 individuals submitted a judicial review (JR) against unlawful detention.

five submitted a JR on HR grounds.

five submitted a JR against unlawful detention and on HR grounds.

To determine in which court those of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24 months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April to June 2011 have lodged

an appeal against detention or removal would require the examination of individual case files, which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency intends to resolve the case of Mr Garfield Rainford. [79437]

Damian Green: In order to safeguard an individual's personal information and comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, the UK Border Agency is unable to provide an update on an individual case when responding to a parliamentary question. The UK Border Agency will write to the right hon. Gentleman to provide an update on the case.

Immigration: Port of Hull

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people entering the UK through the Port of Hull were subject to full e-scan checks between July and November 2011. [81086]

Damian Green: All passengers entering the UK through the Port of Hull between July and November 2011 were subject to full immigration checks.

Rohypnol

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she is taking to reduce the illegal use of Rohypnol; and what awareness campaigns she proposes to run; [85999]

(2) what studies her Department has undertaken on the illegal use of Rohypnol; [86000]

(3) whether she has recently reviewed the classification of the drug Rohypnol; [86001]

(4) what assessment she has made of recent trends in the illegal use of Rohypnol. [86002]

James Brokenshire: Flunitrazepam ('Rohypnol'), together with the other benzodiazepines, is a class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs informs the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), and keeps under review the situation in the UK with respect to controlled drugs, including benzodiazepines. Its report "Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault" (2007) considered the use of benzodiazepines and indicated that adequate controls are in place for these drugs. The report is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/alcohol-drugs/drugs/acmd1/drug-facilitated-sexual-assault/

This Government are committed to tackling sexual offences and other forms of violence against women and girls. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 makes it a separate offence to give someone any substance without their consent and with the intention of stupefying them so that sexual activity can take place. We are also working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers to look at ways to improve police investigations of rape, including cases where drugs are a contributing factor.

The Government's Drug Strategy sets out a multifaceted approach to tackling drug use under three themes: reducing demand, restricting supply and building recovery.

FRANK, the drug information and advice service, has information on tranquillisers (which includes Rohypnol) available on its website at:

www.talktofrank.com

We are currently running a campaign to promote the FRANK service.

Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Bill

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to provide additional resources to the police as a result of implementation of the proposals in the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Bill. [70852]

James Brokenshire: The new system of terrorism prevention and investigation measures (TPIMs) will be accompanied by significant additional funding for both the police and Security Service. We do not provide detailed breakdowns of the money we provide for specific security activities as this would provide information about our capabilities and techniques which could undermine national security.

UK Border Agency: Security

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at which points of entry the UK Border Force used Level 2 security checks under her pilot scheme of summer 2011 to screen *(a)* EEA and *(b)* non-EEA passengers attempting to enter the UK; how often it used such checks; and on what dates. [81059]

Damian Green: The Level 2 risk-based pilot measures applied to EEA nationals were available to all UK ports. The following ports made use of them between 29 July and 4 November 2011:

Aberdeen Airport
Edinburgh Airport
Manchester Airport
Belfast International Airport
East Midlands Airport
Newcastle Airport
Birmingham Airport
Gatwick Airport
Newhaven Ferry Port
Bournemouth Airport
Glasgow Airport
Norwich International Airport
Bristol Airport
Harwich Ferry Terminal
Plymouth Ferry Terminal
Brussels
Heathrow Airport
Poole Ferry Terminal
Calais
Leeds Bradford Airport
Portsmouth Ferry Terminal
Cardiff Airport

Liverpool John Lennon Airport
Prestwick Airport
Coquelles
London City Airport
Stansted Airport
Dunkerque
London Luton Airport

The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has ordered an investigation into all the circumstances relating to the relaxation of border controls. It would be inappropriate to release any further information at this stage.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Training

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which ambulance trusts have opted to use *(a)* Trauma Risk Management and *(b)* Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training; and if he will make a statement. [86532]

Mr Simon Burns: This is an operational matter for local ambulance trusts. As such, this information is not held centrally.

Departmental Pay

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value is of bonuses paid to staff in his Department for work on the national IT scheme in the last 12 months. [86518]

Mr Simon Burns: It is presumed that the hon. Member is referring to staff within the Department working on the National Programme for Information Technology.

No bonuses were paid to such staff in the last 12 months.

Departmental Secondment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86137]

Mr Simon Burns: Since May 2010, the Department has not seconded anyone in from industry.

Five or fewer staff have been seconded in from the third sector during this period. No individual seconded from the third sector is working in a policy development role.

Doctors

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he will take to reduce the time taken in allocating jobs to newly-qualified doctors. [86224]

Anne Milton: The United Kingdom Foundation Programme Office is responsible for defining the national application process and timetable. Key influences on timing are the dates on which UK medical schools announce results for final medical degree examinations and the dates on which the General Medical Council schedules examinations to ensure international medical graduates demonstrate they have the necessary skills and knowledge to practise medicine in the UK. Everyone involved in the national application process makes every endeavour to ensure that medical graduates know where they will be working at the earliest date possible.

Hospital Beds

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 960-2W, on hospital beds, if he will assess the reasons for delayed hospital discharge in May 2010. [86517]

Paul Burstow: Monthly delayed transfers of care data have been collected since August 2010. Prior to August 2010 delayed transfers of care data were weekly unvalidated management information. The equivalent monthly data for May 2010 have been provided in the following tables, which are the weekly snapshot of patient numbers at midnight on Thursday in the week ending 30 May 2010.

Delayed transfers of care (DTOC) by reason, England

England level data		*Number of patients with a DTOC at midnight on the last Thursday of the month*			*Number of delayed days during the reporting period*		
Type of care	*Reason for delay*	*NHS*	*Social care*	*Both*	*NHS*	*Social care*	*Both*
Acute	—	1,525	439	125	—	—	—
Non-acute	—	942	773	128	—	—	—
Acute	(A) Awaiting completion of assessment	281	119	95	—	—	—
	(B) Awaiting public funding	31	35	4	—	—	—
	(C) Awaiting further non-acute (including PCT and mental health) NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	551	0	0	—	—	—
	(Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	105	72	14	—	—	—

Delayed transfers of care (DTOC) by reason, England

England level data		*Number of patients with a DTOC at midnight on the last Thursday of the month*			*Number of delayed days during the reporting period*		
Type of care	*Reason for delay*	*NHS*	*Social care*	*Both*	*NHS*	*Social care*	*Both*
	(Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	65	92	0	—	—	—
	(E) Awaiting care package in own home	53	106	9	—	—	—
	(F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	51	6	3	—	—	—
	(G) Patient or family choice	348	9	0	—	—	—
	(H) Disputes	14	0	0	—	—	—
	(I) Housing—patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	26	0	0	—	—	—
Non-acute	(A) Awaiting completion of assessment	113	155	49	—	—	—
	(B) Awaiting public funding	61	90	28	—	—	—
	(C) Awaiting further non-acute (including PCT and mental health) NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	144	0	0	—	—	—
	(Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	106	102	20	—	—	—
	(Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	101	199	0	—	—	—
	(E) Awaiting care package In own home	28	152	27	—	—	—
	(F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	46	18	4	—	—	—
	(G) Patient or family choice	205	45	0	—	—	—
	(H) Disputes	31	12	0	—	—	—
	(I) Housing—patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	107	0	0	—	—	—

		Number of patients with a DTOC at midnight on the last Thursday of the month	*Number of delayed days during the reporting period*
Acute	—	2,089	—
Non-acute	—	1,843	—
Total	—	3,932	—

Notes:
1. Summary: Delayed transfers of care (DTOC) by whom the delay is attributable to (NHS, Social care or Both) and by the reasons for the delay.
2. Period: May 2010
Source:
Unify2 data collection—WSitDT (week ending 30 May 2010)

Mental Health Services

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he has taken to meet each of the six shared objectives contained in his Department's mental health outcomes strategy; [86538]

(2) what meetings he has had with ministerial colleagues on cross-Government steps to achieve each of the six shared objectives contained in his Department's mental health outcomes strategy. [86539]

Paul Burstow: There have been no formal meetings between the Secretary of State for Health, the right hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), and Ministers in other Government Departments in relation to implementation of the mental health strategy.

Officials across all the relevant Government Departments meet regularly to co-ordinate activity and implementation of the strategy.

The strategy's objectives are designed to be seen together, building a coherent picture of better mental health outcomes, rather than being seen in isolation. Much of the work currently under way will help to meet the strategy's objectives as a whole. Examples include:

the recently-published 'NHS Operating Framework for 2012-13' which highlights mental health services and specifically 'No health without Mental Health' and makes it clear that this should be a priority for primary care trust commissioning;

ensuring that mental health is reflected in the outcomes framework for the national health service, and in the outcomes framework for public health and the draft framework for adult social care;

working, alongside the NHS Confederation and others, to support the implementation through the introduction of Payment by Results and improved outcome measures for mental health.

work across Government to address the wider determinants of mental health.

We have established a ministerial advisory group for the mental health strategy to work in partnership to realise the strategy. This group includes senior representation from other Government Departments.

In October 2011, this group agreed proposals to develop an implementation framework for the strategy. This will be produced by a number of national mental health organisations, in partnership with the Government. The framework is due for publication in spring 2012.

The group receives regular updates on the wide range of work which contributes to meeting the objectives of the strategy. Meeting papers and minutes for this group are published on the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_127788

Occupational Health: Research

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of levels of support for research into occupational health. [81613]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

HSE has a budget of £11 million for applied research in 2011-12 and the major part is devoted to occupational health. Further details can be found on the HSE website at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/content/science-plan-2011.pdf

HSE's occupational research programme is informed by contacts with other funding bodies active in this area to identify synergies and potential gaps in knowledge.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Secondment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86144]

Mr Paterson: Since May 2010, there have been no secondments to my Department from either industry or the third sector.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Secondment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86143]

John Penrose: There have been no secondments to this Department from industry and the third sector since May 2010.

FIFA: Corruption

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the findings of the International Olympic Committee investigation into corruption within FIFA; and if he will make a statement. [86554]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), and I are aware of the recent action that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board has taken following the IOC Ethics Committee's investigation of cash payments received by two IOC members from a sports marketing agency. I applaud the IOC for its efforts in this area. We are also aware that one of those members is a standing FIFA committee member and urge FIFA to deliver on the reform process announced earlier this year.

Olympic Games 2012

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received on the long-term benefits of the London 2012 Olympic games opening ceremony to the economy. [86400]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic opening ceremony, as well as the other Olympic and Paralympic ceremonies, is a unique opportunity to showcase the best of the UK to a global audience and boost the games business and tourism legacy. It is estimated that the ceremonies will broadcast to an audience of 4 billion people, and could be worth up to £5 billion in advertising value.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds which country the London 2012 Olympic flame burner will be manufactured in. [86552]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee has confirmed that both the Olympic torch and cauldron are designed, manufactured and engineered by UK companies. They will showcase British creativity, ingenuity, and production across the UK and around the world. The Olympic torch is designed in Hackney, engineered in Basildon and manufactured in Coventry. Only one small part inside the cauldron will be supplied by a company outside the UK following a competitive tender process.

Olympic Games 2012: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the legacy for Wales of the London 2012 Olympic games. [86200]

Hugh Robertson: Wales and the whole of the UK are already benefiting from the economic, sporting and cultural opportunities generated by the 2012 games, with 848 schools and colleges in Wales already registered as part of the London 2012 education programme "Get Set". 79 projects in Wales have also been awarded the Inspire Mark, including Criw Cymru, a project run in partnership with Galeri, Caernarfon and Theatre Brycheiniog in Brecon.

In addition, 10 businesses registered in Wales have won work directly supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority. These include Euroclad, which provided the external cladding for the Olympic stadium, and Williamson Technical Services, which provided specialist site services for the stadium. Many other businesses based in Wales have secured contracts to supply goods or services within the London 2012 supply chain. I am sure that you would join me in congratulating these companies on securing London 2012 contracts.

S4C

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on the availability of S4C to television viewers outside Wales. [86202]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), is aware that S4C is available outside Wales on Sky, Freesat and the internet. While he has had no formal discussions specifically on this matter, the subject has been raised in the context of the reforms to S4C.

SCOTLAND

Big Society

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps he is taking to promote the big society initiative in Scotland. [86426]

David Mundell: Scotland Office Ministers and officials have met social enterprises, voluntary organisations, local authorities and others to discuss their engagement with various Government policies.

I have hosted a series of roundtable events in towns across Scotland to discuss the ideas that underpin the big society.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Products

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to encourage UK businesses to buy agricultural products produced in the UK. [82854]

Mr Paice: The Government are supportive of a competitive agricultural industry, and DEFRA's first business plan commitment is to 'support and develop British farming and encourage sustainable food production'. This is embedded in much of the work that the Department carries out.

Within Government we have introduced new guidance on sustainable food procurement so that Government Departments source food, subject to no overall increase in costs, that meets British or equivalent standards of production—for example 'Red Tractor'.

We have also encouraged the voluntary code for the labelling of certain products with the true country of origin and supported the EU food information regulation, which makes country of origin labelling mandatory for fresh meat. EU rules prevent the Government from promoting "Buy British" campaigns, however the Levy Boards do carry out promotional campaigns on behalf of UK producers.

Agriculture: Apprentices

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on increasing the number of apprenticeships in the agricultural sector. [85431]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has discussed apprenticeships in the agricultural sector within her wider discussions on the food chain with the Food and Drink Federation, the Farmers' Club, IGD Policy Issues Council and the Women's Food and Farming Union. The ministerial team has also had discussions with the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, the National Skills Academy for Food and Drink and the IGD skills group on a number of issues including apprenticeships.

Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency: South-west England

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to address the concerns raised by the National Farmers Union on the effectiveness of the operation of the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency in the South West. [81299]

Mr Paice: AHVLA needs to make significant efficiency savings to meet its spending review targets in future years. The restructuring of its operations in the South West is one aspect of this work and includes consolidating some of the administrative work in Exeter. Similar changes have been undertaken in other regions previously, and have delivered significant efficiency savings without negative service impacts. The Agency is confident that the same benefits can be achieved in the South West once changes are fully in place.

Up to the end of September performance in most areas in the region was improving. Ongoing problems with the new IT system (Sam) functionality, which went live at the end of September 2011, have unfortunately had an adverse impact on the quality of some services.

To address service issues, experienced staff are working overtime and additional temporary staff have been employed to support activities. Performance standards are now improving.

Key stakeholders such as the South West NFU are being kept informed by AHVLA managers at regional meetings and via regular verbal updates.

Animal Welfare: Slaughterhouses

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 3 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1404W, on slaughterhouses: CCTV, what specific steps she is taking to prevent breaches of the law in slaughterhouses; and if she will make it her policy to report on progress in the implementation of such steps. [80878]

Mr Paice: I can confirm we remain committed to ensuring high standards of welfare in all slaughterhouses and abuse of animals anywhere, including slaughterhouses, is unacceptable.

Welfare in slaughterhouses is currently subject to the requirements of the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995, which are enforced in slaughterhouses by the Food Standards Agency acting on behalf of the Secretary of State. DEFRA and the Food Standards Agency are working closely on how this issue is to be resolved, including the development of an Enforcement Strategy to make clear what steps will be taken in the event of animal welfare breaches being found. The Food Standards Agency has also recently completed a survey of animal welfare standards in slaughterhouses, which will be published in early 2012.

Council Regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing comes into effect on 1 January 2013. This requires us to lay down rules on penalties which are effective, proportionate and dissuasive. We are currently developing proposals for implementation and are considering the role administrative and financial penalties might play alongside criminal prosecutions for welfare breaches. Our aim will be to ensure sanctions can be applied in a way that ensures immediate action is taken to resolve the issue, or halts production until the problem has been addressed. We will consult on these proposals in the normal way next year.

Many slaughterhouses have installed or are in the process of installing, CCTV and this is to be welcomed. Regulation 1099/2009 introduces new monitoring requirements in slaughterhouses and CCTV does have an important role to play alongside other methods, in providing inconspicuous monitoring. Our review of the role CCTV can play, including consideration of whether CCTV should be made mandatory, is continuing in that context.

Dairy Farming: Animal Welfare

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has received interim findings of the research which her Department commissioned the Scottish Agricultural College to undertake on the management and welfare of continuously housed dairy cows; when she plans to publish the results of that research; whether the Government plan to issue a response to the research after it is published; and if she will make a statement. [86185]

Mr Paice: The submission of the final report, which will include details of the critical phase of the analysis, has been delayed as a result of difficulties in obtaining all the necessary data on continuously housed dairy farming in the UK. However, we are now expecting to receive a substantive update from the researchers at the end of the year. The Department intends to publicise the results along with any necessary commentary in due course. I would be happy to place a copy of these in the Library of the House as soon as they are available.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many internal audits have taken place *(a)* in her Department and *(b)* in the non-departmental bodies for which her Department is responsible in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [82545]

Richard Benyon: The number of internal audits reported upon in the period 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2011 was *(a)* 38 in core DEFRA and *(b)* 221 in the executive agencies, non-departmental public bodies and public corporations that DEFRA is responsible for (excluding the National Parks).

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which her Department is responsible; and if she will make a statement. [85704]

Richard Benyon: As part of good corporate governance, the Boards of DEFRA's executive non-departmental public bodies review the major risks to their organisation's objectives regularly. Information on the type of risks each organisation faces is contained in their annual reports or business plans. From 1 April 2012, annual reports will contain a governance statement which will describe the organisation's risk environment and the key risks it is facing.

In addition to corporate-level risks, NDPBs will hold risk information for their major projects.

Dog Wardens

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many dog wardens were employed in each of the last five years. [80999]

Mr Paice: This information is not held centrally by DEFRA.

Fisheries: Accidents

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the number of serious accidents and fatalities reported in the commercial fishing sector in each of the last three years. [85153]

Mike Penning: I have been asked to reply.

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch of the Department for Transport is responsible for receiving reports of accidents involving registered fishing vessels and their crews.

For the three years for which complete data are available, the figures are:

	Injuries	*Fatalities*	*Accidents to vessels*
2008	52	8	257
2009	62	13	238
2010	40	5	268

Flood Control

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the Pitt review working group to report on the potential of natural flood management. [86513]

Richard Benyon: Sir Michael Pitt's recommendation was that DEFRA, the Environment Agency and Natural England should work with partners to establish a programme through Catchment Flood Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans to achieve greater working with natural processes. In response, the Environment Agency and DEFRA established a working group to improve the understanding of natural processes in flood and coastal erosion risk management. In March 2010, this working group published guidance for practitioners which includes examples of good practice. This is available on the Environment Agency's website at:

http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/GEHO0310BSFI-E-E.pdf

A final report, which includes a summary of progress to date and suggestions of where further work would be beneficial, will be published at the end of March 2012.

Food: Waste

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to reduce levels of household food waste. [86379]

Mr Paice: The Government are providing advice to consumers through WRAP's "Love Food Hate Waste" campaign, working with the industry to improve products and practices that help households waste less through the Courtauld Commitment, and developing the evidence base on food waste causes and quantities.

In September, DEFRA published guidance on food date markings. This will help manufacturers apply clearer and consistent dates, making it easier for consumers to understand the meaning of the markings, and therefore reducing food waste.

On 15 November, WRAP announced a 1.1 million tonne, or 13%, reduction in annual UK household food waste since 2006.

Mining

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many mines were in use in England in 2010; and what minerals were quarried from each such mine. [86600]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

A detailed list of what minerals were extracted by which quarries and mines may be found in the British Geological Survey's Directory of Mines and Quarries 2010 which can be accessed at:

http://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/mines/dmq.html

The directory indicates that there were over 1,250 active mines and quarries in England in 2010 (excluding rail heads and wharves), extracting 22 types of mineral. The minerals extracted included coal, sand and gravel, limestone, peat, clay and shale, sandstone, chalk, slate, silica sand, china clay and igneous and metamorphic rock.

Sustainable Development Commission: Finance

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the decision to withdraw funding to the Sustainable Development Commission was reported to the European Commission under the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. [84043]

Mr Paice: The decision to withdraw funding from the Sustainable Development Commission was reported at EU level through the European Sustainable Development Network, which brings together key sustainable development (SD) representatives from member states.

Sustainable Development: EU Action

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made in implementing the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. [84042]

Mr Paice: In February this year, the Government announced their vision for mainstreaming sustainable development (SD) and ensuring that our policies take account of social, environmental and economic factors. Through this package we lead by example to reduce the impact of the Government estate on the environment and ensure that we procure more efficient and sustainable products. We engage with suppliers to understand and reduce the impacts of supply chains, while providing information and support for businesses and communities to do the same.

The UK is making good progress in developing and implementing policies that align with the objectives of the EU SD Strategy, and demonstrate the Government's commitment to a sustainable future.

In June, DEFRA published the Natural Environment White Paper, which recognised that a healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal wellbeing. The White Paper sets out an ambitious programme of action covering the next 50 years and ensures that the value of nature is properly taken into account when developing policies.

At an international level, DEFRA is leading on preparations for the Rio+20 conference on SD in 2012, working with our EU partners to ensure ambitious and action-focused outcomes are achieved next year. The Government will continue to work closely with other countries to ensure that SD remains at the top of the EU and international agenda.

Timber: EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has established a timetable for the passage of her proposed legislation to implement the provisions of the EU Illegal Timber (Due Diligence) Regulation in the UK. [85769]

Mr Paice: The detailed implementing regulations to prevent the first placing of illegally logged timber on the EU market need to be agreed by June 2012. Once agreed, the necessary secondary legislation will be put in place to implement the regulation in the UK. Under its provisions, the EU Timber Regulation must be implemented by 3 March 2013.

Trees: Disease Control

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of evidence that trees damaged by grey squirrels are particularly prone to infection by phytopthora ramorum and that grey squirrels are carrying disease spores from tree to tree; and what steps her Department is taking in response to that evidence. [85870]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission, which has statutory responsibility for the protection of forest trees and timber, carries out aerial surveys to identify tree dieback indicating possible Phytophthora infection. Follow up work has determined that over 300 of the sites surveyed had squirrel damage but found no evidence to suggest that there is a link between this damage and Phytophthora infection. On only 3.5% of sites surveyed are there suggestions of the co-occurrence of squirrel damage and Phytophthora infection, which does not demonstrate cause and effect.

TREASURY

Freight: Tees Valley

Helen Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse is of constructing and developing the Tees Multimodal Bio-Freight Terminal. [85345]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

A conditional award has been made to developing the Tees Multimodal Bio-Freight Terminal project in round 1 of the Regional Growth Fund (RGF). The final amount of public RGF funding for this project will be released when the company completes its due diligence and receive a final grant offer letter, which is expected by the end of December.

Income Tax: Leicester

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residents in Leicester South constituency paid income tax at the 50 pence rate in the latest period for which figures are available. [86473]

Mr Gauke: An estimated 308,000 taxpayers are liable to Income tax at the 50% additional rate in the United Kingdom in 2011-12. In the East Midlands, which contains the Leicester South constituency the estimate is 12,000. These and estimates for other UK Government office regions are published on the HMRC website in tables 2.1 and 2.2, which are available at the following addresses;

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-1.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-2.pdf

Reliable estimates are not available at the parliamentary constituency level, due to greater uncertainties in projections for small geographical areas and small sample sizes.

These estimates are based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Estimates of income and tax by parliamentary constituency for 2007-08 and preceding years are available in table 3.1 5:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Steve Brine: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Shipley of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 513W, on Revenue and Customs: telephone numbers, what the terms of reference are of his Department's review of its telephone numbering strategy; and if he will make a statement. [86195]

Mr Gauke: HMRC initiated an internal and informal review of its numbering strategy for customer-facing helplines in January 2010 with the twin objectives of:

reducing the cost to vulnerable customers of calling HMRC, where that can be delivered at an appropriate balance with HMRC costs and business performance;

improving the sustainability of it's Contact Centre business, by anticipating and mitigating future business costs associated with its numbering strategy.

The Government subsequently accepted the recommendations of the Treasury Sub-Committee in its 16th report "Administration and effectiveness of HM revenue and Customs" (HC731), published on 30 July 2011, that HMRC investigates alternatives to 0845 numbers, including 0345 and freephone numbers, as part of the process of agreeing its next telephony (due in June 2013) and that as an interim measure the Department should examine whether a non-0845 number could be provided for tax credit claimants.

The full text of the Government response was published by the Committee on 26 October 2011 (HC1533) and is available at

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmtreasy/1533/153303.htm

Additionally, and further to my answer to the hon. Member for Slough (Fiona Mactaggart) of 19 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 967W, I can now confirm that HMRC introduced a new 0345 prefixed number for its tax credit helpline on 8 December 2012.

Working Tax Credit: Females

Jessica Morden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people who receive working tax credit in Wales; and what proportion of these are female. [86651]

Mr Gauke: The following table shows the gender breakdown of households receiving working tax credit in Wales:

Number of in-work households benefiting from working tax credit in Wales, by gender

	Thousand
Single female	72.9
Single male	16.1
Couple	169.3
Total	258.3

PRIME MINISTER

Ministers: Conduct

Mr Bone: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has considered bringing forward proposals to change the Ministerial Code in respect of the announcement of new Government policy. [86419]

The Prime Minister: The Ministerial Code states that when Parliament is in Session the most important announcements of Government policy should be made, in the first instance, in Parliament.

JUSTICE

Crimes of Violence: Ex-servicemen

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the number of former armed service personnel who were convicted of violent offences in each year since 1997. [86535]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice court proceedings database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought but not all the circumstances of each case. It is not possible to identify from this centrally held court proceedings information whether a defendant was formerly a member of Her Majesty's armed forces.

However, in January 2010 the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) published the initial results of a joint study to estimate how many prisoners in England and Wales had been in the regular armed forces. In September 2010 a more detailed report was published.

These reports were based on a one-off study, matching MOJ prison population and MOD veterans data to estimate the number of veterans in prison as at 6 November 2009. A similar one-off study was carried out to estimate the number of veterans under Probation Service supervision, with results published on 16 March 2011; the scope of this study did not include estimating the number of court reports relating to former armed service personnel.

All of these reports can be found under the Veterans section of the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) website:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk//applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=66&pubType=3

Departmental Pay

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department records the names of private companies to which former senior managers in Pay Band D upwards in his Department have moved. [86605]

Mr Blunt: The Business Appointment Rules, set out in the Civil Service Management Code, place requirements on all serving civil servants, and on former civil servants for two years after their last day of service, who intend to take an outside appointment or employment after leaving the civil service. Before accepting any new appointment or employment, they must consider whether the rules require them to apply for approval. The circumstances are set out in the Civil Service Management Code and the level of approval required differs according to seniority.

All applications received are recorded, including the name of the company or organisation intending to make the appointment.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether EU citizens serving custodial sentences in prisons in England and Wales before the commencement of the EU Prisoner Transfer Agreement will be liable for repatriation to their country of origin; [84291]

(2) which countries will be ready for the transfer of prisoners under the EU Prisoner Transfer Agreement. [84292]

Mr Blunt: Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA, which will govern the transfer of prisoners between member states of the European Union, enters into force from 5 December. Transitional arrangements set out in the Framework Decision enable member states to enter a declaration on its application. We understand that most member states will be applying the Framework Decision only to those prisoners sentenced after the implementation date of 5 December 2011.

An official list of those member states ready to implement the Framework Decision is not yet available. Our latest information indicates that the majority of member states will implement the Framework Decision in 2012/13 as their implementing legislation is enacted.

Reoffenders

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the answer of 9 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 394W, on reoffenders, what plans he has to compare reoffending rates for offenders involved in the Intensive Alternative to Custody pilots with reoffending rates for similar offenders receiving custodial sentences of less than 12 months. [86628]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 9 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 394W and the answer given today to PQ 86485. The MOJ is still looking at the feasibility of conducting an evaluation of the IAC pilots to compare reoffending rates for IAC offenders with reoffending rates for similar offenders receiving custodial sentences of less than 12 months.

Reoffenders: Alternatives to Prosecution

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of offenders who have completed intensive alternative to custody pilots subsequently re-offended in the latest period for which figures are available. [86485]

Mr Blunt: The MOJ is currently looking at the feasibility of conducting an outcome evaluation of the IAC pilots which would compare reoffending rates for IAC offenders with reoffending rates for similar offenders receiving custodial sentences of less than 12 months.

In July 2011, the MOJ published a short report with the main findings from a range of research exploring the learning from the Intensive Alternatives to Custody (IAC) pilot schemes.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research-and-analysis/moj/intensive-alternatives-custody.htm

The process evaluations covering the seven IAC pilot sites are currently being concluded and will be published in due course.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his counterpart in Uzbekistan on the withdrawal of UK military equipment from Afghanistan via rail; and if he will make a statement. [85226]

Mr Philip Hammond: There has been no ministerial-level engagement with the Uzbek authorities on the subject of the withdrawal of UK military equipment from Afghanistan by rail.

The highest level engagement by Ministry of Defence officials has been by the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Logistic Operations), the two-star military officer responsible for the support of UK forces in Afghanistan and the efficient and cost-effective draw-down of those forces. As part of a wider programme of liaison with countries in central Asia, the present and previous incumbents of that post have visited Uzbekistan three times, in August 2010, March 2011 and November 2011, to conduct discussions with Uzbek officials, including the Defence Minister. These discussions have included the role that Uzbekistan might play in the draw-down of UK forces in Afghanistan but to date no decisions have been taken on the way forward.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects the first upgraded Warrior to be fully operational; [85428]

(2) when he expects the Warrior upgrade to be completed. [85429]

Peter Luff: Delivery of vehicles upgraded through the Warrior Capability Sustainment programme will commence in 2018. Following a period of training and integration, an armoured infantry company equipped with the upgraded Warriors is planned to be fully operational by 2020. Delivery of all of the upgraded vehicles is currently planned to be completed in 2022.

Defence: Procurement

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many sole-sourced procurement contracts have been awarded in the last 10 years; which companies were invited to tender; where those companies are based; and what the value of the contract was; [70848]

(2) how many sole-sourced procurement contracts went over budget in each of the last 10 years; and by how much each such contract went over budget; [70850]

(3) what the cost to the public purse was of sole-sourced contracts that went over budget in each of the last 10 years shown as a proportion of his Department's *(a)* procurement budget and *(b)* budget. [70851]

Peter Luff: An estimated 59,700 new sole-source contracts were awarded between financial years 2001-02 and 2011-12, with a total estimated value of £53.6 billion. The other information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The detailed regulations governing the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) sole-source procurement arrangements are currently being reviewed by the MOD, and the noble Lord Currie of Marylebone has recently published his independent review of these arrangements. The conclusions, which are currently under consideration, include as a key requirement improved collection and analysis of data and financial information on all our sole-source contracts. This will ensure that the MOD is better placed to respond to such requests in the future.

The National Audit Office (NAO) undertakes an annual review of major Defence equipment projects, a proportion of which are sole-source. As an example, the NAO's 2010 Major Projects Report included analysis of a number of sole-source contracts—Type 45 destroyer, Queen Elizabeth Class carrier and Lynx Wildcat helicopter. The NAO reports are available on its external website at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/1011/major_projects_report_2010.aspx

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what receptions and events have been hosted by his Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by a third party. [84174]

Mr Robathan: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. We do not keep a central record of all receptions and events hosted by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), but they may include engagement with foreign Governments, open days, air shows, military tattoos and commemorative occasions.

Our current rules are that the offering of hospitality at any event funded by the MOD will be authorised only in exceptional cases.

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [85702]

Mr Robathan: The following Ministry of Defence (MOD) public bodies keep risk registers relating to the management and mitigation of risk in delivering their business:

Defence Support Group (trading fund)

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (trading fund)

National Army Museum (executive non-departmental public body)

Oil and Pipelines Agency (public corporation)

Royal Air Force Museum (executive non-departmental public body)

UK Hydrographic Office (trading fund).

In addition, the National Museum of the Royal Navy (an executive non-departmental public body) is planning to introduce a risk register.

The MOD operates a risk management process that ensures risks are identified, assessed, controlled and (when necessary) escalated up the command chain for information or mitigating action.

Most of our public bodies have no management need for a formal risk register as their function is principally to act as advisory bodies with risk being managed centrally in the Department.

Falkland Islands

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent assessment he has made of the level of potential military threat to British sovereignty over the Falklands Islands; what military resources the UK has available to defend the Islands at short notice; what substitute sources of deployable airpower remain in the absence of aircraft carriers; and if he will make a statement; [86210]

(2) what arrangements are in place to defend *(a)* UK military assets on the Falkland Islands from attack from (i) airborne, (ii) special and (ii) naval forces and *(b)* the air link to the Falklands Islands from potential surface-to-air threats from ships operating in international waters. [86211]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence undertakes regular assessments of potential military threats to the Falkland Islands to ensure that we retain appropriate levels of defensive capabilities to address any such threats.

A range of military assets are deployed in defence of the Falkland Islands, including air defence aircraft, naval vessels and ground forces. These assets are capable of defending themselves and ensuring the security and territorial integrity of the Islands and its population. We also retain the ability to reinforce these assets with additional deployed forces, including air power, if required.

ISTAR

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what ISTAR will be created by his Department's Solomon programme; [86280]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the Solomon programme. [86281]

Peter Luff: The Solomon programme is designed to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, quality and timeliness of intelligence delivered to the commander. Capabilities include improved intelligence requirements management, tasking of intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance assets, provision of imagery and electronic surveillance capabilities, improved connections between deployed and fixed intelligence communities, and enhanced interoperability with allies.

Approved costs to date are £8 million for programme support over four years and some £40 million for a number of project activities. Details on the estimated total expenditure will not be known until each project within the Solomon programme reaches its main investment decision.

Lynx Helicopters

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Lynx light attack helicopters he plans to convert from the battlefield reconnaissance version; and what the conversion cost will be for each such helicopter. [85589]

Peter Luff: We are planning to increase the number of Wildcat helicopters being purchased from 62 to 66. The fleet will consist of three types: 28 Helicopter Maritime Attack, 30 Army Helicopter (AH), and eight Light Assault Helicopter (LAH). Four of the LAH aircraft were previously to have been AH type. The costs of conversion are still under consideration.

RAF Wittering

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the use of RAF Wittering; and if he will make a statement. [86589]

Nick Harvey: RAF Wittering has a continued future as a RAF station hosting a range of units including the RAF's expeditionary engineering and logistics. Additionally, to maximise the use of resources, Headquarters 12 (Air Support) Engineer Group will relocate to RAF Wittering from Waterbeach Barracks during the summer of 2013.

Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* rotary and *(b)* fixed-wing assets are tasked to combat search and rescue. [85587]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not currently dedicate rotary or fixed-wing assets to the combat search and rescue role. Were a requirement to generate such a standing commitment be identified the MOD would allocate assets from its broad spectrum of capabilities according to the nature of the environment within which they were required to operate; this could be carried out by Merlin or Chinook helicopters. A

combat recovery capability is in place in Afghanistan through the use of Chinook helicopters by the medical emergency response team.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many and which types of *(a)* rotary wing and *(b)* fixed-wing aircraft were deployed in the search and rescue operation for the Swanland; and if he will make a statement; [86505]

(2) whether aircraft deployed in the search and rescue operation for the Swanland were carrying EOSDS facilities; whether EOSDS was used during the operation; and if he will make a statement. [86506]

Nick Harvey: Three RAF and one Royal Navy Sea King Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopters were deployed in the search and rescue operation for the Swanland, during which both military and civilian assets were used. No RAF or Royal Navy fixed-wing aircraft were involved.

All four Sea King helicopters were equipped with infra-red turrets which were used during the operation as required. This provided an Electro-Optical Surveillance and Detection System (EOSDS) capability which transmits TV and infra-red video to the crew.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Boilers: Government Assistance

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* Carmarthenshire and *(b)* Pembrokeshire replaced a boiler under the boiler scrappage scheme. [85608]

Gregory Barker: No boilers were installed in Wales under the English boiler scrappage scheme, which was administered by DECC. The Department holds no information on boilers installed under the Welsh boiler scrappage scheme.

Carbon Emissions

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* England, *(b)* each local authority area and *(c)* each parliamentary constituency received assistance under the carbon emissions reduction target scheme in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10, (iii) 2010-11 and (iv) since April 2011. [86521]

Gregory Barker: Data on the number of households in England, each local authority area and each parliamentary constituency benefiting from cavity wall insulation and loft insulation under the carbon emissions reduction target scheme in each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 can be downloaded from the following web address:

http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/Business/Information/Homes-Energy-Efficiency-Database-HEED/CERT-reports-from-HEED

This information is published by the Energy Saving Trust on behalf of DECC. Households will also have benefited from other measures promoted under CERT, including heating, lighting, appliances and subsidised DIY loft insulation, but there are no distributional data on these.

Carbon Offset Credits

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if the Government will take steps to prevent the double counting of carbon offset credits against both developed country targets and developing country pledges. [86514]

Gregory Barker: At the UN convention on climate change meeting in Durban, both developed and developing countries agreed to provide further clarification in 2012 of the mitigation pledges they have tabled to date. For developed countries this process will specifically include clarification of the assumptions and conditions related to the use of carbon credits in meeting pledges. The UK will fully engage in this process with a view to preventing any double counting of credits by advocating robust and comprehensive common accounting rules. Within the Kyoto protocol rules, emission reductions from carbon credits under the Clean Development Mechanism can only be used for compliance against developed country targets.

In Durban countries also recognised that, when considering the wider opportunities for using markets to enhance the cost-effectiveness of, and to promote, mitigation actions, such approaches:

"must meet standards that deliver, real, permanent, additional and verified mitigation outcomes, avoid double counting of effort, and achieve a net decrease and/avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions"[1].

[1] 'Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention', paragraph 79, p.15:

http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/awglca14/eng/l04.pdf

Community Energy Saving Programme

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* England, *(b)* each local authority area and *(c)* each parliamentary constituency received assistance under the community energy saving programme in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) since April 2011. [86522]

Gregory Barker: The companies obligated under the community energy saving programme (September 2009 to December 2012) are not required to report on the number of households benefiting or where their schemes are located until after the programme ends in December 2012.

However, the companies provide estimates to Ofgem of their progress towards meeting their obligations, which Ofgem publishes annually. The first of these estimates to June 2011 indicated that 9,937 properties had been treated in England (this information is available only at a regional level):

Region	*Properties treated (to June 2011)*
North East	1,611
North West	3,129
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,524

Region	Properties treated (to June 2011)
West Midlands	1,912
East Midlands	533
East of England	193
London	715
South East	41
South West	179
Total	9,937

As CESP schemes take time to set up and complete there were no completed schemes in the period September 2009 to June 2010 and all these properties were treated in the period July 2010 to June 2011.

The next estimate of CESP progress, including the period up to the end of 2011, will be published in May 2012.

Departmental Equality

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps his Department has taken to increase equality in his Department; and at what cost to the public purse. [86239]

Gregory Barker: DECC is an equal opportunities employer and we have a published statement stating that DECC is committed to treating all staff and eligible job applicants fairly and without discrimination. In addition, DECC has a Diversity and Equality Strategy and a published Single Equality Scheme that has an action plan on how the Department can embed both equality and diversity in the Department. Our strategy statement sets out the Department's commitments. DECC aims to ensure that nobody is treated less favourably because of their: age, disability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins, religion or beliefs, employment status. For example, part-time staff should be treated the same as full-time employees.

The Department has taken a number of steps in the last year that may lead to an increase in equality. Some of these steps have direct costs attributed to them.

The Department has submitted its application to the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index in September, which was at no cost.

A half-day disability awareness talk has been arranged to take place in December for all staff to increase the awareness of disabilities and how they can affect working practices at the Department. This was at a cost of £470.

The Department has rolled out a diversity e-learning programme to all staff at a cost of £8,235. DECC has advertised Whitehall-wide development programmes for staff who are under-represented in senior positions. This financial year, 13 DECC staff have commenced one of these courses at a cost of £19,500.

The Department ran an awareness session on disability for a group of senior staff at a cost of £2,796.

Electricity Generation

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what steps the National Grid has taken to validate the meter readings provided by short-term operating reserve aggregators; [86380]

(2) on how many occasions representatives of the National Grid have inspected the metering equipment of short-term operating reserve aggregators in the last year; [86381]

(3) on how many occasions the National Grid has sought penalty payments from short-term operating reserve aggregators for failing to meet their contractual requirements in the last year. [86382]

Charles Hendry: To monitor and despatch services from STOR providers, including aggregators, National Grid installs a Standing Reserve Despatch (SRD) system. This is connected to the reserve provider's metering equipment to allow the amount of reserve provided from the contracted site to be read each minute and communicated back to National Grid.

The rules surrounding the provision of accurate metering signals by all STOR providers (including aggregators) are contained within a contractually enforced document known as the STOR despatch procedure[1]. Through the rights and obligations placed upon STOR providers in this document, National Grid has the right to gain physical access to ascertain the accuracy and adequacy of the metering equipment providing the metering signals and of the resultant data sent to the SRD system. In addition a STOR provider is required by the STOR despatch document to:

(a) ensure that all metering systems comply with the relevant industry metering standards as set out in the Balancing and Settlement Code Codes of Practice;

(b) ensure that all of those meters are kept in calibration; and

(c) provide National Grid with copies of the meter calibration certificates confirming the same.

Aggregators use their own technology to meter each sub-site and aggregate this information which is then fed into the SRD system. National Grid agrees the chosen methodology with each aggregator (which may vary depending on the combination of generation/demand reduction) and subsequently monitors the performance of aggregated sites using a combination of metering data fed into the SRD system and off-line metering data provided by the aggregator[2]. The latest version of the standard contractual agreements for aggregators introduces terms to clarify that, should National Grid wish to discharge its rights to gain access to metering equipment for verification purposes, then given not less than five business days notice of such request, the aggregator has an obligation to provide such access.

Government do not hold information on how many occasions representatives of National Grid inspect the metering equipment of STOR aggregators or sought penalty payments from STOR aggregators for failing to meet their contractual requirements. As the system operator, National Grid is responsible for keeping the system in balance (including the procurement of balancing services) under the terms of its transmission licence and is not required to report this information to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne).

[1]http://www.nationalgrid.com/NR/rdonlyres/297EB1F6-77EA-4AC2-A09A-FB8188A80D98/30804/STOR_Despaich Procedure_v13.pdf

[2]http://www.nationalgrid.com/NR/rdonlyres/EF35E0EC-D7EC-4169-94FB-B09B484C21DF/49612/Generic_Aggregation_STOR_Framework_Agreement.pdf
Published on 19 October 2011

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average price paid by the National Grid is for each megawatt of electricity it buys. [86383]

Charles Hendry: National Grid, as the system operator, is responsible for keeping the system in balance, including the procurement of balancing services under the terms of its transmission licence.

National Grid procures these services in order to ensure the security and quality of electricity supply across the GB Transmission System. National Grid is not required to report to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), so does not inform the Government of the average price paid for the electricity it procures.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what information he has received from the National Grid on the auditing criteria it applies to its contracts with short-term operating reserve aggregators; [86384]

(2) what information he has received from the National Grid on the number of short-term operating reserve contracts that it has audited in the last year. [86385]

Charles Hendry: National Grid, as the system operator, is responsible for keeping the system in balance, including the procurement of balancing services under the terms of its transmission licence. National Grid is not required to report to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne).

Electricity: Prices

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the effect on the average household electricity bill by 2020 of his decision to switch the source of funding carbon capture and storage technology from an additional levy on consumer bills to general taxation. [86495]

Charles Hendry: DECC previously estimated that the CCS levy would have added 2%-3% to average household electricity bills in 2020.

Energy: Private Rented Housing

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what inspection mechanisms he plans to put in place to ensure that private rented properties meet the minimum energy standards required by the provisions of the Energy Act 2011 by April 2016. [86456]

Gregory Barker: Under the provisions in the Energy Act 2011, regulations will be made no later than:

April 2016, so that residential landlords will not be able to unreasonably refuse requests from their tenants for consent to energy efficiency improvements, where financial support is available; and

April 2018, so that all private rented properties must be brought up to a minimum energy efficiency standard, likely to be set at 'E'.

Local authorities will enforce the domestic minimum standard regulations, with the ability to impose a civil fine of up to £5,000. Trading Standards will enforce the minimum standards in the non-domestic sector; the level of civil penalty will be defined in secondary legislation. We expect that the EPC database will be a key inspection mechanism as it will show the EPC rating of properties in the local area.

European Parliament Vote: Manpower

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department were deployed on the inquiry into the outcome of the European Parliament vote of 5 July 2011 on carbon emissions targets. [86527]

Gregory Barker: There has been no inquiry by my officials into the European Parliament's vote on EU greenhouse gas emission reductions, which took place on 5 July 2011.

Fuels: Poverty

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households have been removed from fuel poverty *(a)* since the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target was introduced, *(b)* since the Community Energy Savings programme was introduced and *(c)* since the start of the Warm Front scheme. [85909]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* The Community Energy Savings programme (CESP) was introduced in 2009, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) was introduced in 2008 and the Warm Front scheme was introduced in 2000.

There are a number of policies that have been in place since 2000 that will help customers pay or reduce their energy bills—including CESP, CERT, Warm Front, Decent Homes, Warm Home Discount and the benefit payments that are wholly or partly related to energy costs. It is likely that the current level of fuel poverty in England would be higher had these policies not been implemented. However, no assessment has been made of the aggregate impact of Government action in this area.

Green Deal Scheme

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department are assigned to work on *(a)* the Green Deal, *(b)* the Energy company obligation, *(c)* international climate change issues, *(d)* the Green Economy, *(e)* feed-in tariffs, *(f)* carbon capture and storage and *(g)* promoting the interests of energy consumers. [86608]

Gregory Barker: There are currently 57.6 staff working on the Green Deal, 16 staff on the energy company obligation, 48 staff on international climate change, 14 staff on feed-in tariffs, and 35.3 staff on carbon

capture and storage. Many of DECC's policies, and the staff working on them, contribute towards the Green Economy and to promoting the interests of energy consumers.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) when he plans to publish his Department's geomechanical study into the relationship between shale gas drilling and the seismic activity in the vicinity of Cuadrilla Resources Preese Hall-1 well on the Lancashire coast at Fylde in April and May 2011; [86814]

(2) what the terms of reference are for his Department's geomechanical study into the relationship between shale gas drilling and the seismic activity in the vicinity of Cuadrilla Resources Preese Hall-1 well on the Lancashire coast at Fylde in April and May 2011. [86815]

Charles Hendry: Following the seismic tremors experienced in Poulton-le-Fylde in Lancashire in April and May, DECC asked Cuadrilla to carry out a geomechanical study to look specifically at the geological and seismic properties of the rock strata and shale in and around Poulton-le-Fylde, and any linkages between the recent seismic tremors and hydraulic fracturing operations in the area. The study, which confirms a connection between the hydraulic fracturing at the Preese Hall-1 well and the seismic activity which took place on 1 April and 27 May 2011, was submitted to DECC, and published by the company, on 2 November 2011.

No decision on the resumption of these hydraulic fracture operations will be made until the implications of this report, and of any further analysis which may prove necessary, has been fully considered and appropriate practical measures have been approved by Ministers to minimise the risk of such events occurring again. Other key regulators will be consulted before any such decision is taken.

Natural Gas: Prices

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the effect on the average household gas bill by 2020 of his decision to switch the source of funding for the Renewable Heat Incentive from an additional levy on consumer bills to general taxation. [86494]

Gregory Barker: After the February 2010 consultation on the RHI, the decision was taken to fund the RHI through general taxation rather than an additional levy. At the time of this decision, the scheme was expected to have led to a peak increase in the average household gas bill of £104 per year in 2020 (ramping up from a very small impact in the first year of the scheme).

Since the decision to fund through general taxation, the RHI design has undergone a number of changes. However, no subsequent further assessment of the potential impact on household bills has been undertaken, as the decision to fund through general taxation had been made.

Nuclear Power

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what additional costs his Department will incur in implementing the recommendations in Dr Weightman's report on the implications for the UK nuclear industry of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami. [86747]

Charles Hendry: Nuclear safety is a top priority. The relevant recommendations from Dr Weightman's report will be implemented as part of our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement and any such associated costs to the Department will be borne by the overall departmental budget. Any increase in costs for new nuclear power stations will be borne by the operators.

Ofgem: Fines

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many fines Ofgem has imposed in each of the last 10 years; and what the monetary value was of each fine. [86525]

Charles Hendry: The information requested is a matter for Ofgem. The chief executive of Ofgem will write to the hon. Lady and place a copy of the letter in the Libraries of the House.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 616W, on feed-in tariffs, when he expects the second consultation on the comprehensive review to be published. [85778]

Gregory Barker: We intend to publish the second consultation on the comprehensive review in January 2012.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received on his proposals to reduce the feed-in tariff applicable to new solar photovoltaic installations; if he will consider a transition period with an intermediary tariff rate for the purpose of mitigating the effects of such changes on communities and households; and if he will make a statement. [83493]

Gregory Barker: The Department has received a number of representations on the proposals set out in the consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics. These include representations suggesting different approaches to implementing the proposed new tariffs including through transitional arrangements such as an intermediary tariff rate.

The consultation closes on 23 December 2011 and we will consider all representations made.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Billing

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with his French counterpart on the efficacy of limiting payment periods between companies to 60 days as required by the French loi de modernisation de l'économie 2008. [86063]

Mr Davey: BIS officials have been in regular discussion with their French counterparts about late payment legislation in France, in the context of the working group on the development of the recast directive on combating late payment in commercial transactions.

This Government have made clear their objective of challenging the long-standing culture of late payment, which persists across all sectors of the economy and across businesses of all sizes, and we have supported a multi-faceted strategy for improving business cash flow alongside the UK's leading business and finance organisations.

We continue to monitor payment across the economy and will not rule out any measures which have the support of the business community in the UK. However, there has been long-standing and widespread opposition from UK business to Government intervention in contractual freedoms, including on payment terms. I understand that the French legislation allows sectors to apply for exemption and that this has been utilised by a large number of sectors.

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of recent trends in the average length of payment terms by suppliers to small and medium-sized enterprises. [86065]

Mr Prisk: The Department does not hold data on the average length of payment terms agreed between suppliers and customers. There is no effective way of collecting and collating the enormous volume of formal and informal agreements that take place between suppliers and their customers every day across the UK.

However, the Department has a long-standing partnership with the UK's leading business representatives and finance organisations to develop a culture of prompt payment, and our work with them suggests that the typical payment term offered by customers in the UK is 30 days net monthly—that is, 30 days following the end of the month in which the invoice is received.

While we do not hold data on average payment terms, we do measure actual payment performance. The Department commissions Experian to provide data on customer payment performance each quarter. For payment by firms who are not in liquidation or receivership (and can therefore be considered to be live trading firms), data for the third quarter of 2011 (July-September) show that small and medium-sized firms (those with fewer than 250 employees) were paid on average 16.45 days beyond contract terms. This is half a day higher than the previous quarterly figure of 15.96 days. This is the first quarterly increase in this figure since the fourth quarter of 2010. However, the current level of late payment is still 0.2 days lower than the same period last year. This measure peaked during the recession in Q1 2009 at 20.3 days beyond term.

Experian measures payment performance based upon the terms provided by the supplier in their invoice. We know that many suppliers assume a 30-day payment period while customer terms are typically 30 days net monthly. This might in part explain the apparent difference in supplier expectation and actual payment as recorded by Experian. To enable effective cash flow management it is therefore vital that suppliers agree payment terms in advance of supply to avoid unexpected and unplanned cash flow pressures—we believe advance agreement of payment terms does not happen in at least half of all UK transactions.

Business Cash Flow

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to improve cash flows for small and medium-sized enterprises. [86067]

Mr Prisk: The Government understand the importance of managing cash flow and are determined to do everything they can to help business do this successfully. Transforming the longstanding culture of late payment requires a multi-faceted strategy to engage and educate business.

Late payment legislation gives businesses a statutory right to claim interest from other businesses for the late payment of commercial debt, and where there are no pre-agreed payment terms, the legislation provides that the payment period is 30 days from the later of either delivery of goods or receipt of invoice. Further advice on this legislation and on claiming interest for late payments can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file37581.pdf

The Prompt Payment Code developed with the Institute of Credit Management (ICM) seeks to identify payment exemplars across both the public and private sectors and to codify good practice. Signatories to the code are required to pay within agreed terms and to communicate effectively with suppliers. As at 1 December 2011, nearly 1,060 organisations have signed up to the Prompt Payment Code. Further information on the code can be found at:

http://www.promptpaymentcode.org.uk/

We have also worked with the ICM to produce a series of checklists on all aspects of cash flow management, available at:

http://www.creditmanagement.org.uk/bisguides.htm

As at November 2011, there have been nearly 265, 000 downloads of the guides.

It is also important that the public sector sets a strong example, and central Government Departments now aim to pay 80% of undisputed invoices within five days. In October 2011, this Department paid 95.6% of its invoices within this timeframe. To ensure the benefits of prompt payment to main contractors are felt through the supply chain, all Departments have included a clause in their contracts that requires main contractors to pay their suppliers within 30 days.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to penalise institutions which do not meet their widening participation obligations as defined in their access agreements. [86607]

Mr Hayes: It is a matter for the director of fair access to determine whether an institution has complied with the terms of its access agreement.

Where the director decides that an institution has failed to meet the conditions of its access agreement, he may impose a financial sanction (via the funding body) up to a maximum of £500,000 or refuse to renew the access agreement. He may also require restitution if students have been disadvantaged or commitments have not been honoured.

The Government have committed to strengthen the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) so it can provide a more active and energetic challenge and support to universities and colleges. We will make significantly more resources available, increasing capacity up to around four times its original level and equipping OFFA to use fully its powers to monitor and review access agreements.

We are currently considering whether the director of fair access has the right powers, taking into account the responses to the White Paper and the technical consultation that followed. We will set out our plans in the draft Bill that we shall be presenting to Parliament next year.

Court Orders: Kingston upon Hull

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many court orders have been obtained through the Kingston upon Hull Official Receiver's office for foreign nationals in each of the last five years. [86531]

Mr Davey: Information concerning the number of bankruptcy orders in relation to foreign nationals is not collated and the costs of obtaining it would be disproportionate.

Degrees

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Higher Education Funding Council for England on the future of degree-awarding powers. [86548]

Mr Hayes: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) continues to be actively involved at official level in meetings and discussions on the proposed reforms to higher education, including the future of degree-awarding powers. For example, HEFCE was represented at two stakeholder meetings in September on the proposed regulatory framework as part of the Department's recent technical consultation, which ran until 27 October. These meetings included discussion of degree-awarding powers. HEFCE's own response to the consultation is available at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/reform/response.htm

In addition, I met with the chief executive and the chairman of HEFCE on 18 November to discuss various aspects of HEFCE's role in the future regulatory system.

A quarterly-updated list of all BIS ministerial meetings with external organisations is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what risk registers are held by the non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [85698]

Mr Davey: Non-departmental public bodies associated with BIS have responsibility themselves to ensure that they have appropriate risk management tools and processes in place. The core Department does not hold information on individual organisations' risk registers.

Details of the Department's risk and control framework can be found in the annual report and accounts 2010-11:

"The Department's approach is to assign risks to those best placed to manage them. Our approach is to establish clear accountability and ownership of risk so as to ensure the risk is managed at the appropriate level and mechanisms are in place to escalate significant risks to senior management".

(page 71)

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/b/11-p102-bis-annual-report-and-accounts-2010-11

Employment: Young People

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether 18 to 24-year-old citizens of other EU member states will be eligible for the Youth Contract. [85677]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

Support offered through each element of the Youth Contract will have its own eligibility requirements. EU citizens aged 18 to 24 are able to access the support on offer provided that they meet the relevant requirements.

Higher Education: Admissions

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether designated higher education course places will be included in the Higher Education Funding Council for England student number allocation in the next academic year. [86032]

Mr Hayes: Existing legislation does not allow us to impose conditions or sanctions relating to student number controls on privately funded institutions, therefore these courses will not be included in the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) student number allocation in the next academic year. HEFCE's allocations will include places on designated higher education courses at institutions that they fund (and which accounts for most of the designated higher education course places).

However, as we set out in the Higher Education White Paper and associated technical consultation, the future regulatory framework will ensure that providers which access student support funding will have to meet, in a proportionate and risk-based manner, a number of conditions in future including reformed student number controls.

In the meantime the Department receives quarterly updates on the number of students accessing student support on these courses from the Student Loans Company.

Higher Education: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from Dartford constituency were accepted on to courses at *(a)* Oxford university and *(b)* the University of Cambridge in each of the last five years. [85461]

Mr Hayes: The information is not held centrally. UCAS holds this information, but its policy is that for reasons of confidentiality it does not release figures for individual institutions where the cell counts for accepted applicants are low.

Higher Education: Greater Manchester

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from Oldham East and Saddleworth constituency were accepted on to courses at *(a)* Oxford university and *(b)* the University of Cambridge in each academic year since 2001. [85212]

Mr Hayes: The information is not held centrally. UCAS holds this information, but its policy is that for reasons of confidentiality it does not release figures for individual institutions where the cell counts for accepted applicants are low.

Insolvency

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what recent assessment he has made of the levels of bankruptcy tourism in the UK; and what steps he is taking to support the Insolvency Service in tackling that practice; [86461]

(2) what steps he is taking to support the Insolvency Service in introducing safeguards against abuse by foreign nationals declaring themselves bankrupt in England and Wales. [86530]

Mr Davey: Under European insolvency law, bankruptcy proceedings can only be commenced where the individual's centre of main interests lies. Where an abuse of that law is proven to have taken place and a bankrupt's centre of main interests is found not to have been in the country where the application is made, an application to annul a bankruptcy order will be made. Analysis of bankruptcy orders undertaken by the Insolvency Service in respect of England and Wales indicates that incidences of abuse of this process are extremely rare.

The Insolvency Service has already taken action in such cases and also against companies involved in encouraging individuals to make false applications to our courts.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many insolvencies were identified for further investigation in Official Receivers' offices in each of the last five years. [86466]

Mr Davey: The number of insolvencies identified for further investigation (FI) in the last five years are:

Period in which FI decision made	*Cases identified for FI*	*Total insolvencies*
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	7,970	69,227
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	7,484	74,163
1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010	5,518	79,498
1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011[1]	4,158	57,385
1 April 2011 to 30 November 2011	2,179	28,036

[1] Data for October 2010 not available.

Official Receivers deal only with Compulsory Liquidations and Bankruptcies and on average a further investigation decision is made within 56 days of an insolvency order.

The number of cases identified for further investigation has been compared, in the table above, with the number of insolvencies dealt with for a corresponding period commencing two months prior to reflect the time taken to make the further investigation decision.

Not all cases identified for further investigation result in criminal or civil proceedings as further inquiries can reveal satisfactory explanations or mitigating factors. The Insolvency Service periodically reviews its guidance and training to improve efficiency in terms of the number of cases which are marked as further investigation but do not result in either criminal or civil proceedings.

The Insolvency Service introduced a new computer system in October 2010 and due to technical issues it is not possible to extract the data for October 2010 without disproportional costs being incurred.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of trends in the number of *(a)* bankruptcy restriction orders and undertakings and *(b)* disqualification orders and undertakings obtained by the Insolvency Service in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [86476]

Mr Davey: In respect of director disqualifications, the Insolvency Service plan range for 2011/12 is 1,250 to 1,350, which is broadly in line with previous years.

In respect of bankruptcy and debt relief restrictions, the plan range for 2011/12 is 700 to 1,000, reflecting the significant fall in new bankruptcy case numbers.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 95-96W, on insolvency, how many staff at each grade will be transferred to alternative offices as a result of implementation of the delivery strategy. [86536]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service's delivery strategy aims to restructure the organisation to make it more able to respond flexibly to future volatility in the case numbers that it deals with.

Staff will not, in the short term, be required to move office as a result of the implementation of the delivery strategy. It is being implemented in a virtual, i.e. non-physical, way, until at least 2014. The process by which the Insolvency Service moves to physical implementation of the delivery strategy, beyond 2014, is still being discussed and will form part of future consultations with staff.

The Insolvency Service has, however, announced its intention to proceed to public consultations on the closure of its offices in Stockton, Bournemouth and Medway. This is part of its response to significant reductions in case volumes. The closures are also subject to funding being secured. It is intended that the staff and work of these offices would be merged with neighbouring offices.

The current number of staff, identified by grade, in each of those offices is shown in the following table.

	D3	D2	C2	C1	L3	L2	L1	B3	B2	B1	A2	A1	Total
Stockton	0	0	2	0	7	4	4	0	2	4	13	3	39
Bournemouth	0	1	3	0	3	1	4	0	1	1	6	0	20
Medway	0	1	3	0	6	3	1	0	1	3	12	4	34

The number of staff required in each office, in respect of the Official Receivers Services, part of the Insolvency Service, is a factor of how many cases the Insolvency Service receives. These have been declining, and are expected to decline further, and staffing complements are likely to be adjusted if this trend continues. This is a separate issue from the delivery strategy whose purpose is to deliver a new and more flexible operating model for the Insolvency Service.

The delivery strategy does, however, anticipate further office closures/mergers that have not yet been identified. The Insolvency Service has announced a move towards a revised structure of eight Insolvency Service centre locations across England and Wales, with a network of around a further 17 Insolvency Service local office locations. In the longer term, this would reduce the total number of locations to about 25, some 10 fewer than now.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has recovered from payments made to the family and friends of a bankrupt who had a bankruptcy restriction order or undertaking made against them in each of the last five years. [86542]

Mr Davey: This information cannot be provided as the amount of payments recovered from family and friends of a bankrupt is not identified separately.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bankruptcy restriction *(a)* orders and *(b)* undertakings have been obtained against individuals who have repaid family and friends rather than other creditors in each of the last five years. [86543]

Mr Davey: No statistics are maintained for bankruptcy restriction cases in the last five years that concern repayments to family and friends as creditors rather than other creditors.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills *(a)* how many and what grades of staff and *(b)* what other resources are required by the Insolvency Service to obtain a disqualification (i) order and (ii) undertaking for (A) one to five years, (B) six to 10 years and (C) 11 to 15 years. [86544]

Mr Davey: Statistics are not maintained for how many and what grades of staff and what "other resources" (howsoever defined) are needed for obtaining disqualification orders or undertakings in each of quoted brackets and the costs of collating them would be disproportionate.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average cost was of obtaining a disqualification *(a)* order and *(b)* undertaking for a period of disqualification of (i) one to five, (ii) six to 10 and (iii) 11 to 15 years, in each of the last five years. [86551]

Mr Davey: Statistics are not maintained for the "average cost" of obtaining disqualification orders or undertakings and the costs of collating them would be disproportionate.

Insolvency: Northern Region

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2011, *Official Report*, columns 95-96W, on insolvency, how many staff at each grade are employed in each of the northern offices of the Insolvency Service; and how many will be employed in each such office following implementation of the delivery strategy. [86537]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service's delivery strategy aims to restructure the organisation to make it more able to respond flexibly to future volatility in the case numbers that it deals with. This will change the current regional structure.

The offices in the existing north region currently have the following staffing complements broken down by grade.

	D3	D2	C2	C1	L3	L2	L1	B3	B2	B1	A2	A1	Total
Newcastle	0	1	4	0	7	5	3	0	1	3	10	5	40
Stockton	0	0	2	0	7	4	4	0	2	4	13	3	39
Leeds	0	2	5	1	15	5	12	0	3	9	22	4	78
Blackpool	0	1	4	0	9	4	10	0	1	3	15	6	53
Manchester	3	6	24	6	27	9	7	0	6	3	32	4	127

	D3	D2	C2	C1	L3	L2	L1	B3	B2	B1	A2	A1	Total
Liverpool	0	0	3	1	3	4	2	1	0	2	7	7	30
Chester	0	0	2	0	5	2	7	0	2	3	10	3	34
Stoke	0	1	4	0	5	2	4	0	2	5	25	1	49
Hull	0	0	3	0	9	2	9	0	1	4	16	7	51

Staffing levels are not intended to change in the short term or as a direct result of the implementation of the delivery strategy. It is being implemented in a virtual, i.e. non-physical, way, until at least 2014. The process by which the Insolvency Service moves to physical implementation of the delivery strategy, beyond 2014, is still being discussed and will form part of future consultations with staff.

A possible exception to this is the Stockton office as the Insolvency Service has announced its intention to issue a public consultation on the closure of this office in 2013, subject to funding being secured. There may be further, as yet unidentified, office closures/mergers in the northern offices as the Insolvency Service has indicated that, in the longer term, it anticipates reducing its total number of locations to around 25, some 10 fewer than now.

The number of staff required in each office, in respect of the Official Receivers Services, part of the Insolvency Service, is a factor of how many cases the Insolvency Service receives. The number of new cases has been declining, and is expected to decline further, and staffing complements are likely to be adjusted if this trend continues, including in the northern offices. This is a separate issue from the delivery strategy, whose purpose is to deliver a new and more flexible operating model for the Insolvency Service.

Accordingly, subject to these complementing issues, while at specific northern locations the staffing numbers may change and some locations may close, it is intended that, under the delivery strategy, the overall staffing levels across the northern offices would remain consistent.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ascertain what has become of the letter from him to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr D. Wightman, which his Department sent on 17 October 2011, but which has not reached the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton. [85471]

Mr Davey: All letters from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to the House of Commons are delivered by Government Mail.

I can assure the right hon. Member that the letter would have been delivered in that manner.

The movement of letters within the House of Commons is not within the control of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

A further copy of the letter of 17 October 2011 has been sent electronically and in hard copy to the right hon. Member's office.

Productivity

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the most recent industrial and manufacturing production figures; and what assessment he has made of the effect of his Department's policies on the levels of industrial production and manufacturing. [86214]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* The latest official figures for October 2011 show that manufacturing output fell by 0.7% in the three months to October 2011 compared with the previous three months, the first fall on this basis since October 2009. However, this is still 0.9% higher than the same period last year.

We recognise that the overall economic position is very difficult given the legacy and the external environment but we are determined to promote recovery. In the Autumn Statement last week, the Government announced a wide-ranging package building on the programme of reforms set out in the Plan for Growth, including £5 billion in new commitments to improve UK transport and broadband networks, as well as steps to attract major private sector investment.

Scholarships

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to assess the use of the National Scholarship Programme by institutions in 2012-13. [86549]

Mr Hayes: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has commissioned CFE Research and Consultancy, an independent research and consultancy body, to undertake an evaluation of the National Scholarship Programme.

The first phase of the project, running until early next year, will look at the set up of the programme by institutions, and the report will be published next spring. The second phase, which will include consideration of the first year of the programme, will survey both students and institutions, and will report in the autumn of 2013.

HEFCE will also monitor the targeting and take up of the awards through the annual returns that institutions make to the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

Third Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 330-1W, on third sector, (1) how much funding his Department provided to each organisation listed in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [86655]

(2) how much funding was provided to the organisations listed by other Directorates in his Department in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement; [86656]

(3) how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* the Royal Society, *(b)* the British Academy, *(c)* the Royal Academy of Engineering, *(d)* the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network, *(e)* the British Science Association, *(f)* the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology, *(g)* the Design Council, *(h)* Natural England, *(i)* the UK Council for International Students, *(j)* Tate Britain, *(k)* the British Council, *(l)* the Royal Anniversary Trust, *(m)* the Raleigh International Trust *(n)* the Association of Commonwealth Universities, *(o)* the National Foundation for Education and *(p)* Royal Botanic Kew Gardens in 2010-11. [86657]

Mr Hayes: The following table lists the information held by the Department for 2010-11 and 2011-12 and supersedes the answer of 7 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 330-31W. None of the bodies concerned receive direct departmental funding in 2011-12 other than through the Knowledge and Innovation Group.

		£000
	2010-11	*2011-12*
Royal Society	48,558	47,830
British Academy	26,448	27,001
Royal Academy of Engineering	12,826	12,634
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network (STEMNET)	6,828	6,300
British Science Association	1,526	1,530
Engineering UK	350	350
UK Resource Centre for Women in SET	2,469	500
Design Council	5,540	5,312
Natural England	365	—
UK Council for International Students	300	150
Tate Britain	291	—
The British Council	285	204
European University Institute	229	188
College of Europe	213	46
Royal Anniversary Trust	167	—
Association of Commonwealth Universities	117	58
National Foundation for Education	115	—
Royal Botanic Kew Gardens	111	360

Universities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to require universities to have in place a policy on academic conflicts of interest; and if he will make a statement. [86469]

Mr Hayes: The Government do not intend to put in place any new regulations on universities regarding the treatment of conflicts of interest. This issue is already addressed in a number of ways including grant funding terms and other governance arrangements in the university, although a number of institutions do bring these together in a single institution-wide policy.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities for what reason the need for political balance in respect of the composition of the Commissioners of the Equality and Human Rights Commission was not included as an issue in the recent public consultation; and if she will make a statement. [85332]

Lynne Featherstone: Public appointments should be on the basis of merit, not political affiliation. As we set out in our consultation, we want to see a smaller board with stronger corporate skills and experience, gained in the private, voluntary and public sectors.

Fawcett Society: Finance

Karl McCartney: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities (1) what funding from the public purse has been allocated to the Fawcett Society in any future years for which figures are available; [81405]

(2) what funding the Fawcett Society received from the public purse in each of the last five years. [81406]

Lynne Featherstone: This information is not collected centrally. However, the Government Equalities Office (GEO) made two payments during 2008-09 in respect of publications amounting to £11,150.

There are no future plans to fund the Fawcett Society.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission procured publication services from the Fawcett Society in 2010 to the value of £5,700.

The Commission has allocated no future grant funding to the Fawcett Society.

EDUCATION

Children: Disability

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many *(a)* deafblind and *(b)* multi-sensory impaired children with a statement have been provided with intervenor support in each of the last five years; [85557]

(2) how many *(a)* deafblind and *(b)* multi-sensory impaired children received a statutory assessment in each of the last five years; [85558]

(3) how many children *(a)* are deafblind *(b)* have another form of multi-sensory impairment in England. [85559]

Sarah Teather: The school census collects information on pupils with different types of special educational needs. It includes a category for 'multi-sensory impairment' but not a separate category for 'deafblind'.

In January 2011, the school census showed that there were 935 pupils with multi-sensory impairment as their primary type of need who were receiving support through either School Action Plus or through a statement of special educational needs.

Information on the number of children with multi-sensory impairment who received a statutory assessment, and the numbers provided with intervenor support is not held centrally.

Early Intervention Grant

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding he is providing to local authorities through the early intervention grant in financial year 2012-13. [85791]

Sarah Teather: OCLG announced the provisional local government finance settlement on 8 December. This included revised figures for the indicative early intervention grant (EIG) allocations for 2012-13. The indicative EIG allocation for 2012-13 is £2,365,200,000.

Information on individual local authorities indicative EIG allocations is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/informationforprofessionals/a0070357/early-intervention-grant-frequently-asked-questions/

These figures are still indicative and the allocations will be confirmed in February when the Department issues the 2012-13 EIG determination letter.

Education: Rural Areas

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to ensure future funding models do not disadvantage rural areas. [84094]

Mr Gibb: The recent consultation on reforming the school funding system looked carefully at how rural schools should be supported. The Department for Education is considering responses to the consultation and discussing options with interested parties, including those who represent rural areas, before we decide how to proceed. We aim to consult on more detailed proposals in the spring.

Free Schools: Vetting

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he has taken to ensure that all free school employees have been CRB checked. [84112]

Mr Gibb: Free schools have a statutory duty to ensure that all members of staff have received an enhanced CRB check prior to their appointment or as soon as practically possible thereafter, and that this check confirms their suitability to work with children.

General Teaching Council

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* benefits of the abolition of the General Teaching Council; [86389]

(2) how many staff will cease to be employed as a result of the abolition of the General Teaching Council; [86343]

(3) how many representations he has received on the abolition of the General Teaching Council; [86344]

(4) what plans he has to establish communication mechanisms between teachers and his Department following the abolition of the General Teaching Council; [86345]

(5) what plans he has to promote professional skills for teachers following the abolition of the General Teaching Council. [86346]

Mr Gibb: The Education Act 2011 provided for the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) to be abolished on 31 March 2012. Those functions of the GTCE that are continuing will be carried out by the Teaching Agency, an executive agency of the Department for Education, which will be established on 1 April 2012. The impact assessment for the Education Act 2011 is available from the Department's website:

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/h/education%20bill%20%20%20impact%20assessment%20ia.pdf

Included within this is an assessment of the cost and benefits of the abolition of the GTCE. The cost of abolition is estimated to be £15 million and the savings from abolition are estimated to be £11 million per annum between 2012-13 and 2019-20.

During the passage of the Education Act 2011 the Department received 93 pieces of correspondence relating to the abolition of the GTCE. In addition, officials have met unions to discuss the abolition of the GTCE and a public consultation was held on the teacher disciplinary and induction regulations. The consultation ran from 20 July to 12 October 2011 and a summary of responses will be published on the Department's website shortly at:

www.education.gov.uk/consultations

GTCE employees are able to transfer to the DfE or its agencies, or accept voluntary redundancy under the GTCE's own scheme. Until the GTCE has closed its voluntary redundancy scheme we will not know how many staff members have decided not to accept a transfer to the Department.

The Department has transition plans in place to continue any essential communications that are required following the abolition of the General Teaching Council. Plans are under way to transfer essential web content and other materials, and to consider any direct communications that may be needed. In line with our wider efficiencies work and work to reduce the bureaucratic burdens on teachers, we are taking the opportunity to refine our communications, slim down guidance and cut unnecessary activity. Communications with teachers will continue through the Teaching Agency from 1 April.

The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), outlined his plans to develop the professional skills of teachers in the Schools White Paper: The Importance of Teaching and the ITT Strategy. This approach is based on research that shows that teachers learn best from other professionals through observing teaching, being observed, and receiving feedback from peers. On 8 November the Department published an implementation plan for changes to initial teacher training (ITT) from 2012/13. This includes proposals to reform training so that more ITT is led by schools and there is focus on the most important elements of being a teacher.

New Teacher Standards will come into force from September 2012 and will focus on the essential elements of effective teaching and the professional conduct expected

of every teacher. We are also creating a national network of teaching schools on the model of teaching hospitals and launching a new scholarship scheme for teachers. It will be the role of the Teaching Agency to promote the use of the Standards at all levels in professional development, performance management and in procedures for underperforming teachers.

National Curriculum: Cybercrime

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if there are any plans to introduce the subject of cyber-security into the national curriculum. [84073]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* We aim to reform the national curriculum so that it properly reflects the body of essential knowledge in key subjects, leaving teachers greater flexibility to use their professional judgment to design wider school curricula that best meet the needs of their pupils. Teachers will be able to use this increased flexibility to teach pupils about important topics such as internet safety.

We will be announcing our initial proposals for the national curriculum next year, following which there will be full public consultation before final decisions are made.

Pre-school Education

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what criteria his Department will use to determine eligibility for free nursery places for two-year-olds announced in the Autumn Statement; [85792]

(2) how many children he expects to participate in the scheme providing free early years entitlement to children aged two in each financial year to 2014-15; [85793]

(3) what assessment he has made of the ability of local authorities to provide sufficient child care places to meet the demand for free early years entitlement for children aged two years; [85794]

(4) whether he will provide support to help local authorities increase local child care capacity to the levels needed to deliver free early years entitlement for children aged two years. [85795]

Sarah Teather: The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Autumn Statement that the early education entitlement for two-year-olds will be expanded to cover around 260,000 children—around 40% of two-year-olds—by 2014-15. The Government intend to take a phased approach to the implementation of the new entitlement. The 20% most disadvantaged two-year-olds—around 130,000 children—will be eligible from September 2013. From 2014, the entitlement will be extended to 40%. Currently, around 20,000 two-year-olds access free early education places.

We are already consulting on proposals for eligibility criteria for the first phase of implementation from September 2013. We propose that two-year-olds who meet the criteria for free school meals, or who are looked after, should be eligible for the entitlement. We will publish further proposals in due course about eligibility criteria to reach 40% of two-year-olds from 2014, focusing on the children and families that need them most. We will seek the views of parents, early education providers and local authorities on how this can best be achieved.

In recognition of the costs involved in reaching around 40% of two-year-olds, the Government have announced additional funding. A further £68 million has been included in the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) in 2012-13, in addition to the £223 million that was previously announced in December 2010. This funding is available to local authorities to build towards the new entitlement. Many are already using this funding to offer places to the two-year-olds who need them most, as well as to build capacity locally and support quality improvements. The early years market is dynamic and diverse, and we expect that it will respond positively to the increase in demand that the new entitlement will create.

We are working with local authorities, providers, and their representative organisations to support them in delivering the entitlement. The Government have set aside £4 million in the current financial year for 18 local authorities who are testing new approaches in providing free early education for two-year-olds. There will also be £5 million funding available in 2012-13 to support local authorities' delivery of two-year-old places. The Department for Education will discuss how this resource can best be deployed with local government partners and other sector representatives.

Primary Education: Bournemouth

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the shortage of primary school places in Bournemouth. [84151]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* The Department collects information from each local authority on school capacity in maintained schools through an annual survey, which includes local authorities' own pupil forecasts. The most recent survey data relate to the position in May 2010 and are available on the Department for Education's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000982/index.shtml

The Department provides capital funding to local authorities to ensure there are sufficient school places. It is the responsibility of each local authority to manage the supply and demand for school places in its area and to secure a place for every child of statutory school age who wants one.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure that the funding per pupil in voluntary-aided schools is comparable to the funding per pupil in an academy school in the same local authority area if the local authority central spend equivalent element of an academy's general annual grant is disregarded. [84006]

Mr Gibb: We aim to fund academies at the same level as equivalent schools in the same local authority area, and the academies funding system is designed to achieve this.

Academies' funding agreements specify that their funding should be equivalent to their maintained peers. They are therefore funded according to the local funding

formula which applies to maintained schools, including voluntary aided schools. There may be legitimate differences within this formula in recognition of voluntary aided schools' specific responsibilities and costs.

Schools: Rural Areas

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has any plans to review the use of the Acorn funding formula for schools in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [81345]

Mr Gibb: On 19 July 2011, the Department for Education published "A Consultation on School Funding Reform: proposals for a fairer system". The consultation sought views on the components and indicators of a potential new funding formula for schools. The consultation proposed using Free School Meals data to target money to deprived pupils rather than an area-based measure of deprivation. The consultation closed on 11 October and the Department is currently considering the responses. Further information on the reform of school funding will be made available in due course.

Sixth Form Education

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration is given to existing post-16 provision in areas where a free school seeks to provide sixth form education. [84468]

Mr Gibb: Under section 9 of the Academies Act 2010, the Secretary of State for Education is under a duty to consider the impact of establishing a new school on maintained schools, academies and further education institutions in the area in which the new school is situated or proposed to be situated. This requirement applies in relation to the establishment free schools, including a free school proposing to offer post-16 provision.

Specialised Diplomas: Environment

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reason the Specialist Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies has been withdrawn. [86654]

Mr Gibb: Following consultation this summer, Ofqual is revising the regulatory arrangements for diplomas to allow awarding organisations to make their own decisions about whether to offer it as a qualification, based upon demand from schools and colleges. As a result, some awarding bodies have chosen to withdraw from the full diploma. Some awarding bodies will continue to offer the Principal Learning components as qualifications in their own right. These high quality vocational qualifications can support progression outside of the framework of the diploma and can be combined with other qualifications to meet the needs of a broad programme of study.

Teachers: Pensions

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the pension entitlements of teachers in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other OECD countries. [83611]

Mr Gibb: The provisions of the pension schemes covering teachers in England and Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland are broadly the same and consequently the pension entitlements for teachers across the UK will be more or less the same. The Department has made no assessment of the pension entitlements of teachers in the UK and other OECD countries.

Following the recommendations made by Lord Hutton of Furness in the report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, the Department is currently discussing proposed reforms to the Teachers' Pension Scheme with the teacher unions and other stakeholders. The aim of those discussions is to secure a pension scheme that continues to be valued by the profession and which helps to continue to attract people of high ability into teaching.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Females

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will increase support for development programmes in Afghanistan that promote women's rights. [86163]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is placing women and girls at the heart of its development programme and is already supporting women's rights in Afghanistan. During my recent visit to Kabul I launched the Strengthening Afghanistan's Civil Society Project ('Tawanmandi'—'Strengthening' in Dari). Jointly funded with Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Tawanmandi will provide grants to civil society organisations across Afghanistan to help them to engage more effectively with the Government and hold it to account. Human rights, particularly women's rights, and access to justice will be major themes.

In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides support to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Support Unit at the Ministry of Justice. The FCO also provides support to paralegal services working with women and girls in adult prisons and juvenile detention centres.

Conciliation Resources

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect on the work undertaken by Conciliation Resources in Abkhazia of Russia recognising Abkhazia as an independent state; and if he will make a statement. [86040]

Mr Lidington: I have been asked to reply.

Conciliation Resources has been working in Georgia since the mid 1990s. It continues to work on projects which are designed to improve the prospects for peace by connecting people across the conflict divide, challenging existing prejudices, and working to tackle the root causes of the conflict. These projects are consistent with the work of the internationally mediated Geneva Talks process. The work undertaken by Conciliation Resources in Abkhazia, Georgia promotes conflict resolution between

Abkhazia and the rest of Georgia and in our assessment has had no bearing on Russia's decision to recognise Abkhazia as an independent state. The UK fully supports Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has received reports that the work of Conciliation Resources is going beyond its remit in Abkhazia; and if he will withdraw funding from Conciliation Resources if that is the case. [86041]

Mr Lidington: I have been asked to reply.

Conciliation Resources and other organisations like it are undertaking valuable work to build the foundations for future conflict resolution in Georgia. The Government of Georgia have raised the work of Conciliation Resources in Georgia with us. We have received no reports that show that the work of Conciliation Resources is going beyond its remit in Abkhazia, Georgia. We have no plans to amend funding levels.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures his Department has in place to monitor the activities of Conciliation Resources in Abkhazia. [86042]

Mr Duncan: DFID provides support to Conciliation Resources through the Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF). The Conciliation Resources' programme works with groups in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia, Uganda, Georgia-Abkhazia and Fiji to help women, men and youth in conflict-affected communities to work effectively with politicians and policymakers on issues that impact on their lives.

DFID monitors the GTF programmes through the assessment of annual reports and independent mid-term reviews.

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards. [85860]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's two United Kingdom office staff restaurants have operated under contract to Mitie Technical Facilities Management since December 2010 on a non-subsidised basis.

Mitie Catering Services is currently working towards providing calorie labelling at the point of choice for standard food and drinks items. Prior to this information being displayed on menu boards for daily specials, Mitie Catering Services is testing the most effective way for this to be implemented into the business on such items as pre-packaged food products.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure the countries of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85861]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID) two United Kingdom office staff restaurants have operated under contract to Mitie Technical Facilities since December 2010 on a non-subsidised basis.

Mitie Catering does not currently display the country of origin on DFID's staff restaurant menus and display boards. However, the country of origin information is readily available along the supply chain and all products can be traced back to source.

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [85707]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: There are two non-departmental public bodies that fall under the responsibility of the Department for International Development (DFID): (a) the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) and (b) the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission (CSC).

ICAI publishes in an annual corporate plan its approach to risk management and specific information on how it mitigates key risks. ICAI maintains a risk register as a central part of that risk management process. DFID scrutinises ICAI's risk management as part of the regular assurance activities, including internal audits, provided for in the framework agreement with ICAI.

CSC maintains a risk register which is reviewed annually by the Audit and Risk Management Committee and presented to the Commission each July.

Departmental Secondment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86142]

Mr Duncan: From May 2010 the Department for International Development has:

(a) Two secondments from industry, both in policy development roles and both short-term.

Duration October to December 2011

(b) Six secondments from the third sector, all to policy development roles;

Four senior research fellows to work alongside the integrated policy and research teams. Duration for two years from March 2011.

Two social development advisers to work on Violence against Women. Duration for one year from October 2011.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85923]

Mr Duncan: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide this information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to the Government Department's performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Between May 2010 and November 2011 the Department for International Development (DFID) answered 1,499 ordinary written parliamentary questions within 10 sitting days and 90 within 20 sitting days. No ordinary written parliamentary questions took more than 20 sitting days to answer.

Developing Countries: Water

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes his Department supports to educate children in international crisis zones on the importance of clean water. [85875]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides core funding to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which has an important role in ensuring children's basic needs are met, including access to and education in water and sanitation. UNICEF protects the health and well-being of children through the promotion of safe drinking water, especially during humanitarian crises.

DFID will provide £40 million in annual voluntary core funding to UNICEF for each of the next two financial years (2011-12 and 2012-13). There is also a provisional funding allocation of £40 million per year for financial years 2013-14 and 2014-15, dependant on a mid-point review.

In addition to this multilateral funding, DFID have also committed directly to delivering on a series of challenging targets concerning water and sanitation. These include making sure 15 million more people have access to clean drinking water, 25 million more people have access to improved sanitation facilities and 15 million more people are reached by hygiene promotion.

Development Aid

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received on the Busan agreement on aid effectiveness. [86166]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The three main UK priorities of results, transparency and fragility are now enshrined in the Busan outcome document which can be found here:

http://www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhlf4/en/component/content/article/698.html

Further to this, the UK played a central role in developing an outcome document that could be supported by emerging economies including China, India and Brazil.

I have outlined in more detail the outcomes of Busan in my written ministerial statement dated 7 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 30WS.

I have engaged with a wide variety of actors throughout the process, including other donor countries, emerging economies, eg China during my visit just before Busan, developing country leaders, the UKAN (UK Aid Network) group of NGOs during the conference and more recently with BOAG (British Overseas Aid Group) upon my return. This was with the intention that as broad a set of stakeholders could sign up to the Busan outcome document as possible.

Kashmir: Overseas Aid

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department sponsors in Kashmir; and how much it spent in Kashmir in the last 12 months. [85755]

Mr Duncan: Under our International Partnership Agreement Programme, the Department for International Development provided £63,536 during 2010-11 to support Save the Children's work in Jammu and Kashmir. Our support to the Government of India's universal primary education programme (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) and National AIDS Control Programme also included Jammu and Kashmir.

Sri Lanka: International Assistance

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the International Committee of the Red Cross on the progress of reconstruction and resettlement in Sri Lanka. [85939]

Mr Duncan: The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), has not had any recent discussions with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the progress of reconstruction and resettlement in Sri Lanka. However, the British high commission in Colombo meets regularly with all international agencies present in Sri Lanka. They have regular discussions with the ICRC about the situation in Sri Lanka.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the World Food Programme on the provision of emergency food assistance in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. [85940]

Mr Duncan: The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), has not had any recent discussions with the World Food Programme (WFP) on the provision of emergency food assistance in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. However, the British high commission in Colombo meets regularly with all international agencies present in Sri Lanka, including those based in the north. They have regular discussions with the WFP about the situation in Sri Lanka.

World Toilet Day

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he took to raise awareness of World Toilet Day 2011. [85915]

Mr Duncan: In the run up to World Toilet Day, the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien), visited a sanitation project in Bangladesh to publicise the need for strong support in providing access to clean water, improved sanitation facilities and better hygiene practices.

These initiatives complement DFID's commitments to making sure 15 million more people have access to clean drinking water, 25 million more people have access to improved sanitation facilities and 15 million more people are reached by hygiene promotion.

DFID country offices were also involved in activities to promote sanitation on World Toilet Day. For example, DFID's Head of Office in Sierra Leone participated in an event organised by the Ministry of Health, the Urban WASH Consortium and UNICEF at a school in the east of the capital, Freetown.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 15 December 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Live Music Industry

8. **Kevin Brennan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to support the live music industry. [86791]

John Penrose: The Government are supporting the live music industry through delivering their commitment to free live performances from unnecessary red tape.

We are supporting the Live Music Bill which I hope, with the continued support of the Benches opposite, will successfully complete its remaining stages in the new year.

In addition, I am starting to consider responses to our consultation on proposals for wider deregulation of music and other cultural activities from the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003.

Secondary Ticketing Market

13. **Mrs Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the regulation of the secondary ticketing market. [86799]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: On 28 November I met the hon. Member and my hon. Friend the Member for Hove (Mike Weatherley) with a delegation from the cultural industries and sport. I made clear at that meeting my view that industry solutions, particularly technical ones, should be exhausted before looking at regulatory ones.

Broadband: Mobile Phones

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to meet his target to extend *(a)* mobile telephone coverage to 99 per cent. of the population and *(b)* superfast broadband to 90 per cent. of homes. [86803]

Mr Vaizey: It is expected that both targets will be met by 2015.

Local Broadcasting: Television

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he next expects to make an announcement on provision of local television in Wales. [86201]

Mr Vaizey: The Government's response to the consultations on the Framework for Local TV consultation and Pioneer Locations was published on 13 December 2011. This includes details of the first locations that Ofcom expects to invite applications for local TV licences and confirms the legislative proposals.

It is expected that Cardiff and Swansea will be licensed in the first tranche, followed by Bangor and Mold subsequently.

Olympic Games 2012: National Lottery

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the extra lottery funding that will become available for good causes after the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [86886]

John Penrose: After the transfers to the Olympics have been taken into account, income for the good causes in the current financial year is estimated to be £1,349 million, based on our most recent September projections. Income in the 2013-14 financial year, when the Olympic transfers will have finished, is estimated to be £1,749 million.

Olympic Games 2012: Plastic Bags

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the organisers of the London 2012 Olympics have any plans to discourage usage of plastic carrier bags at the Games. [86496]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) will not be providing single-use or short-life disposable plastic bags to customers in its shops. High-quality recyclable bags will be provided, but only on request, when they will be promoted as being reusable for multiple occasions. LOCOG is identifying the most sustainable solution and will announce this in due course.

LOCOG's sponsors and suppliers will be required to adhere to the London 2012 Sustainable Sourcing Code as they develop their plans for any packaging, including bags where appropriate.

Sports: Facilities

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to prevent the closure of community sports facilities as a result of reductions in local authority funding. [86800]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England is investing £135 million of lottery funding through the 'Places, People, Play' programme, the majority of which will be invested in facilities to deliver a tangible sporting legacy. It has also developed a range of support tools, including an online toolkit for national governing bodies, local authorities and sports clubs to use the opportunity of community asset transfer to take control of sports facilities on a sustainable basis.

In addition, the Localism Bill includes provisions to give community groups a great opportunity to bid to take over assets listed as Asset of Community Value, if they are made available for sale.

Television Licenses (Northern Ireland)

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will consider offering two licences in Northern Ireland at the initial stage as part of his plans for local television. [86084]

Mr Vaizey: On 13 December 2011, the Government published details of the first locations that Ofcom expects to invite applications for local TV licences.

These are subject to further consultation; however it is expected that Belfast will be in the first tranche and Derry/Londonderry and Limavady subsequently.

HEALTH

Heart Diseases: Screening

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with healthcare commissioners on the potential inclusion of pulse checks in NHS health checks for the purposes of achieving early diagnosis of atrial fibrillation; [86540]

(2) what consideration he has given to the inclusion of pulse checks as a compulsory part of NHS health checks for the purposes of achieving early diagnosis of atrial fibrillation. [86541]

Mr Simon Burns: The UK National Screening Committee provides advice on population screening issues and it currently recommends against a population based approach to early detection of atrial fibrillation, such as the inclusion of a pulse check in the NHS Health Check. There have been no discussions with commissioners about the inclusion of pulse checks in the NHS Health Check.

HIV Infection: Screening

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guideline on increasing the uptake of HIV testing to reduce undiagnosed infection and prevent transmission among men who have sex with men, how many primary care trusts have developed a local strategy to increase the uptake of HIV testing among men who have sex with men in England; [86647]

(2) how many of the primary care trusts with a diagnosed HIV prevalence in their local population exceeding two in 1,000 offer HIV testing to all men and women registering in general practice and general medical admissions in England; [86648]

(3) with reference to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guideline on increasing the uptake of HIV testing to reduce undiagnosed infection and prevent transmission among black African communities living in England, how many primary care trusts developed a local strategy to increase the uptake of HIV testing among black Africans in their area. [86649]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect information on local HIV testing services and strategies. It is the responsibility of local primary care trusts to ensure that sexual health services, including HIV prevention and testing, meet the particular needs of their local population taking into account HIV prevalence and other health priorities. We are aware that in some areas of high HIV prevalence (including Brighton, Leicester and London) commissioners and practitioners have already introduced wider HIV testing programmes to reduce undiagnosed HIV.

Mental Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has any plans to extend the service provided by the 24-hour Combat Stress Support Helpline. [86393]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department committed £200,000 to run a one-year pilot of the 24-hour helpline. The Department plans to carry out an evaluation of this pilot, and, based on the outcome, to make a decision regarding the future of the service.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* veterans and *(b)* veterans' families have accessed the 24-hour Combat Stress Support Helpline since it came into operation. [86394]

Mr Simon Burns: The 24-hour helpline for veterans launched in March 2011. Since then, the service has received over 3,600 calls, from 1,397 different individuals. 477 of these calls have been from families and carers of veterans. The service does not record the 'other' callers to the helpline (i.e. those who are neither veterans nor families of veterans).

NHS Trusts

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what process *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* hon. Members can seek to initiate a reconfiguration of NHS trusts; and if he will make a statement. [86717]

Mr Simon Burns: The reconfiguration of health services should be a locally led process, with plans developed in partnership between commissioners, providers, local authorities and the public. The aim of reconfiguration is to improve the quality of services for patients. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has been clear that reconfigurations should have the support of general practitioner commissioners, a clear clinical evidence base, support for patient choice, and effective patient and public engagement.

It is the responsibility of commissioners to plan and secure the provision of the great majority of health services that their population needs. Therefore, if local authorities or hon. Members believe there is evidence that the current configuration of services in their locality could be improved to deliver better patient outcomes within available resources, they should approach the relevant local national health service commissioner.

NHS: ICT

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the Computer Sciences Corporation on extending its contract. [86519]

Mr Simon Burns: A series of discussions have been held with the Computer Sciences Corporation relating to the existing contract. Discussions have been based upon a number of options relating to alternative contractual approaches to secure value for the taxpayer.

As the contractual discussions have not concluded, specific details cannot be provided at this time.

Social Services: Finance

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of users of adult social care services are not self-funding in each local authority area. [86718]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Telehealth

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the likely take-up of telehealth schemes; [86545]

(2) what discussions he has had with private companies on funding of telehealth schemes. [86546]

Paul Burstow: The Department's modelling suggests that at least 3 million people with long-term conditions could benefit from telehealth leading to a potential efficiency gain of around £1.2 billion over the next five years.

The Department has been discussing with industry about new models of delivery but it will be for the national health service to commission services locally.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Policy Announcements

Alun Michael: To ask the Leader of the House what steps he is taking in respect of the announcement of major policy initiatives by Ministers. [86678]

Mr Heath: The House debated this issue during the Backbench Business debate on 5 December 2011 and rejected the proposal tabled by my hon. Friend the Member for Kettering (Mr Hollobone), and others.

As my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons said during that debate, Ministers are very mindful of the requirement in the Ministerial Code that:

"when Parliament is in session the most important announcements of Government policy should be made, in the first instance, to Parliament."

My right hon. Friend and I do not hesitate to remind colleagues of that requirement.

Private Members' Bills

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Leader of the House if he will bring forward proposals for a supplementary ballot for additional private Members' Bills in any future parliamentary Session which lasts for longer than one year. [86683]

Sir George Young: Following the current one-off adjustment to spring-to-spring Sessions, the Government does not envisage any future Sessions of a similar length. The Government nevertheless believes that the current single ballot would operate satisfactorily in the event of a future, extended Session.

Queen's Speech

Mr Spellar: To ask the Leader of the House on what date the Queen's Speech will be held in the next Session of Parliament. [86768]

Sir George Young: The date of the Queen's Speech will be announced in the usual way.

Times of Sitting

Claire Perry: To ask the Leader of the House what recent assessment he has made of the House's sitting hours. [86681]

Sir George Young: I have noted with interest the consultation on sitting hours produced by the Procedure Committee. I look forward to giving oral evidence to that Committee during its inquiry.

WALES

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 month period for which information is available. [86991]

Mr David Jones: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 8 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 909W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr Bain).

Driving Under Influence: Rehabilitation

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions her Department has had with the *(a)* Welsh Government and *(b)* Driving Standards Agency on (i) the provision of drink drive rehabilitation courses in Wales and (ii) ensuring a consistent approach to such courses in each constituent part of the UK. [86595]

Mr David Jones: The Department has regular discussions within Whitehall and with the Welsh Government about a range of matters relevant to Wales.

Under amendments introduced to the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 by provisions in the Road Safety Act 2006, responsibility for drink drive rehabilitation

training in Wales will lie with Welsh Ministers. The Driving Standards Agency will continue to liaise with the Welsh Government on the future operation of drink drive rehabilitation training in Wales.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure his Department has incurred in *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Newcastle, *(c)* Wakefield, *(d)* Manchester, *(e)* Leeds, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Coventry, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Sheffield, *(j)* Bradford, *(k)* Leicester and *(l)* Nottingham in the last fiscal year for which figures are available. [85543]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is shown in the following table.

More detailed benefit expenditure tables including outturn data for all local authorities can be found here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

	Local authority	*Benefit expenditure 2010-11 (£ million)*
(a)	Birmingham	2,587.9
(b)	Newcastle upon Tyne	681.1
(c)	Wakefield	817.6
(d)	Manchester	1,170.2
(e)	Leeds	1,649.2
(f)	Liverpool	1,418.4
(g)	Coventry	767.2
(h)	Bristol	946.2
(i)	Sheffield	1,267.1
(j)	Bradford	1,127.1
(k)	Leicester	705.5
(l)	Nottingham	703.8

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest hundred thousand.
Source:
DWP Statistical and Accounting data, and local authority subsidy returns

Employment and Support Allowance: Drugs

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals have been made by employment and support allowance recipients receiving residential treatment for drug or alcohol misuse who were not classified as limited capability for work without the requirement to attend a face-to-face assessment in 2011; and how many of those appeals were determined in favour of the appellant. [86840]

Chris Grayling: The specific information requested is not available.

The Department does not hold centrally collated information on employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants receiving residential treatment for drug or alcohol misuse. However, for claims starting between October 2008 and August 2010 (the latest period for which there is sufficient data for publication) where the primary condition recorded relates to drug or alcohol misuse, 9,300 were assessed by the Department as fit for work and have had an appeal heard to date. Of these, 38% were found in favour of the appellant meaning their entitlement to ESA was reinstated.

Entitlement to ESA is based on functional capabilities, not on an individual's condition. The medical condition recorded on a claim form does not in itself confer entitlement to ESA. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a person claiming employment and support allowance on the basis of alcoholism would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the work capability assessment, or on the effects of any associated mental health problems. It is also important to note that, where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on employment and support allowance and the work capability assessment. The latest report was published in October 2011 and can be found on the internet at the link below. Information relating to appeals for the ESA case load as a whole can be found in Table 3.

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data from the Tribunals Service. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100, or 1%.

Information on drug and alcohol misuse has been calculated using the International Classification of Diseases categories, "Mental and behavioural disorders due to multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances" and "Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol".

Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to and heard by HM Courts and Tribunals Service, it is likely there are more appeals that have not yet been heard. The number of appeals is therefore likely to change as more up to date information becomes available.

Employment and Support Allowance: Public Finance

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of reassessing those on contributory employment and support allowance in the work-related activity group to see if they qualify for the support group at the end of the 12 month time limit. [86981]

Chris Grayling: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave the right hon. Member for Oxford East (Mr Smith) on 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1112W.

Employment: Young People

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the Youth Contract on the level of employment. [86858]

Chris Grayling: The Youth Contract will provide nearly half a million new opportunities for young people, including job subsidies, apprenticeships and work experience placements.

Job subsidy programmes have an impact on the labour market, for example, OECD research from 2005 found that private sector subsidised employment programmes frequently have a positive impact on employment[1]. However, the full impact of this package of measures on the level of employment will depend on decisions on the detail of provision which are not yet finalised. The Department is currently developing an evaluation strategy for the Youth Contract.

[1] OECD (2005), "Labour Market Programmes and Activation Strategies: Evaluating the Impacts", OECD Employment Outlook, p. 173-208.

Independent Living Fund

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to make an announcement on the arrangements for the consultation for changes to the Independent Living Fund. [86729]

Maria Miller: In a written statement on 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 8WS, I announced that the Government would consult on future support arrangements for ILF users in spring 2012, alongside the publication of the planned White Paper on the future of care and support in England.

London Underground: Industrial Health and Safety

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many underground inspections were undertaken by Health and Safety Executive personnel at each active mine in England in 2010. [86508]

Chris Grayling: There were 128 underground inspections/investigations made at active producing mines in England in 2010. This figure does not include visits where only surface structures and equipment were inspected/investigated. A detailed breakdown of the statistics is as follows.

Number of underground inspections at active producing mines in England in 2010

Site name	*Total*
Barrow	3
Birkshead	1
Boulby	18
Brightling	2
Daw Mill	16
Elm Park	1
Eckington	5
Fauld	2
Hartham Park	2
Hatfield	6
Hayroyds	4
Honister	1
Jordans	1
Kellingley	15
Linda Barrow	1
Maltby	12
Marblaegis	5
South Crafty	4
Stoke Hill	1
Thoresby	11
Welbeck	6
Westwood	1
Winsford	10
Total	128

Social Security Benefits: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of people in the London borough of Bexley in receipt of out-of-work benefits as a result of *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drug dependency. [86165]

Chris Grayling: Drug and alcohol addiction is one of the most damaging root causes of poverty, and helping people who are trapped on benefits through drug and alcohol addiction so that they can recover and find employment is a top priority for the Government.

A breakdown by medical condition is only available for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) and employment and support allowance (ESA), and is shown in the following table. Medical condition is not available for the other out-of-work benefits: jobseeker's allowance (JSA) and income support (IS).

Total number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance claimants with drug abuse and alcoholism as a main disabling condition—Bexley local authority, May 2011

Bexley	*IB/SDA*	*ESA*
Alcoholism	60	50
Drug abuse	50	10

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
3. To qualify for incapacity benefit (IB), claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work called a personal capability assessment. Under the employment support allowance regime, new claimants have to undergo the work capability assesment. From April 2011 incapacity benefit recipients will begin also to undertake this assessment. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefit or employment support allowance. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming IB or ESA on the basis of mental and behavioural disorders would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the personal/work capability assessment.
4. Data include those entitled to national insurance credits only.

Source:
DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100%.

Work Programme

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the effectiveness of the Work programme will be measured; and if he will make a statement. [87160]

Chris Grayling: Individuals stay on the Work programme for two years, so we expect to see substantial indications of the effectiveness of the programme from spring 2013. A full independent evaluation has been commissioned for that year and I look forward to sharing the results with the House in due course. We will closely monitor the operation of the programme in the interim.

Work Programme: Employment

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people over the age of 50 years have found paid employment as a result of the Work programme. [86944]

Chris Grayling: The Department intends to publish official statistics on referrals to the Work programme from spring 2012 and on job outcomes from autumn 2012. This is in line with guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure published statistics meet the required high quality standards.

CABINET OFFICE

Construction: Procurement

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost to the public purse was of use of the Official Journal of the European Union public procurement tendering process for UK construction projects in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the value was of the construction works procured. [86292]

Mr Maude: Information on the cost of individual procurements is not held centrally.

The total value of Central Government funded construction projects during 2011-12 is approximately £10 billion.

Employment: Financial Services

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were employed in the financial services sector in *(a)* the South West, *(b)* the South East, *(c)* London, *(d)* the West Midlands, *(e)* the East Midlands, *(f)* the East of England, *(g)* the North West, *(h)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(i)* the North East, *(j)* Scotland, *(k)* Wales and *(l)* Northern Ireland on the latest date for which information is available. [87073]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people are employed in the financial services sector in (a) the South West, (b) the South East, (c) London, (d) the West Midlands, (e) the East Midlands, (f) the East of England, (g) the North West, (h) Yorkshire and the Humber, (i) the North East, (j) Scotland, (k) Wales and (l) Northern Ireland at the latest date for which information is available. (87073)

Table 1 contains the seasonally adjusted number of Workforce Jobs in SIC2007 Section K (financial and insurance activities) for Q3 2011 (September 2011), the latest date for which information is available. Section K includes financial service activities, insurance, reinsurance and pension funding (except compulsory social security), and activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities.

Workforce Jobs is a quarterly measure of the number of jobs in the United Kingdom (UK) and is the preferred measure of the change in jobs by industry. It is a compound source that draws on a range of employer surveys, household surveys and administrative sources. WFJ is the sum of employee jobs (EJ) measured primarily by employer surveys, self-employment jobs (SEJ) from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), and government-supported trainees (GST) and Her Majesty's Forces (HMF) from administrative sources.

Table 1: Workforce Jobs, SIC 2007 Section K, seasonally adjusted

	Thousand
	Q3 2011[1]
North East	30
North West	98
Yorkshire and the Humber	98
East Midlands	43
West Midlands	73
East	83
London	351
South East	123
South West	86
Wales	27
Scotland	93
Northern Ireland	20
UK[2]	1,124

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000.
[2] Due to the effect of rounding the estimate for the UK does not equal the sum total of its constituent parts.

Government Departments: Internet

Dr Huppert: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the risks posed by malware downloaded onto people's computers via Adobe Reader on the basis of advice given on Government websites. [86770]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the new national cyber security strategy published on 25 November at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cyber-security-strategy

which has assessed the risks to UK Government, private sector and individuals from cyber threats including the threat from malware. The strategy outlines how individuals have an important role to play in keeping cyberspace as a safe place to do business and live their lives by taking steps to protect themselves online.

Get Safe Online is a joint Government/industry initiative to raise awareness of internet security which we support. In November I launched the annual Get Safe Online Week which is an important means of alerting people to the latest online threats including malware and the importance of updating their anti-virus and anti-spyware as well as their operating systems.

The majority of threats can be avoided by following some simple measures, and via Get Safe Online we will continue to work to raise awareness and to educate and empower people and firms to protect themselves online.

Ministers

Bill Esterson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the potential for a reduction in the number of Government Ministers and advisers following the planned reduction in the size of the House of Commons. [86846]

Mr Maude: The Government are committed to keeping the number of Ministers under review.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituencies

Alun Michael: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when the proposals for new parliamentary constituencies in Wales will be published. [86854]

Mr Harper: The Boundary Commission for Wales determines the timing of the parliamentary boundary review in Wales and all the stages within it. It has announced that it plans to publish its initial proposals for the 2013 review of parliamentary constituencies in January 2012, and that it expects to complete the 2013 review within the deadline stipulated by Parliament.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Working Hours

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she had on the European Aviation Safety Agency's notice of proposed amendments on flight time limitations. [86248]

Mrs Villiers: Officials from the Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority attended a meeting of the European Aviation Safety Agency's (EASA) Advisory Group of National Authorities on 26 October at which the proposals were discussed.

Business: Administration

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to alleviate the administrative burden of the provisions of EU Council Regulation 1071/2009 for small and micro-businesses. [86801]

Mike Penning: The Department has adopted all flexibilities that the regulation allows to minimise any additional burdens on business. Existing businesses that were formerly outside the requirements of operator licensing, but are now required to comply with the requirements of the regulation, will be given appropriate time to do so.

Crossrail Line: Bexleyheath

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to help maximise the benefits of Crossrail for Bexleyheath and Crayford residents. [86168]

Mrs Villiers: We are committed to delivering the agreed Crossrail scheme which will run to Abbey Wood. Rail passengers in Bexleyheath and Crayford will be able to access Crossrail services via Abbey Wood, from where fast connections into the City, the West End and beyond will be available, improving access to jobs, business and leisure facilities.

The extra capacity that is created by Crossrail will also reduce congestion on many tube and rail lines including Southeastern services.

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many official photographs have been taken of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in her Department for use in Government publications since May 2010; how many staff of her Department are expected to undertake photography of the Ministerial and senior leadership team as part of their duties; and if she will make a statement. [82566]

Norman Baker: The following table provides information on the number of official photographs that have been taken since May 2010, as well as the numbers of staff who perform this function as part of their duties in the column headed (c):

	(a) Ministers	*(b) Senior staff*	*(c) Number of staff*
Central Department	5	16	2
Highways Agency	7	11	1
Driving Standards Agency	0	0	0
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	0	0	0
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	0	0	0
Vehicle Certification Agency	0	0	0
Government Car and Despatch Agency	0	0	0
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	0	4	1

Highways Agency

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to her Department's Structural Reform Monthly Implementation Plan, what progress has been made on work to review the Highways Agency. [86804]

Mike Penning: The review, undertaken by Alan Cook, the non-executive chairman of the Highways Agency, was published on 24 November 2011. A copy of the report can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/strategic-roads-network

Intercity Express Programme

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment her Department has made of the business case for the Intercity Express programme fleet to be deployed on the *(a)* Great Western Main Line and *(b)* East Coast Main Line. [86849]

Mrs Villiers: Business cases for large projects are periodically refreshed—for example, to reflect the latest economic forecasts.

Business case updates were prepared for deployment of the IEP fleet on both the Great Western and East Coast Main Lines in November 2011.

The economic case for the Intercity Express Programme remains strong, with a combined (ECML and GWML together) benefit:cost ratio of 2.3:1.

Railway Stations: Worcester

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with Network Rail on the creation of a Worcester Parkway station. [86940]

Mrs Villiers: We have had no recent discussions with Network Rail about the creation of a Worcester Parkway station. It is for the promoter, Worcestershire county council, to lead on discussions with the rail industry on this project.

Rescue Services: Liverpool

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential effects on public safety of the closure of Liverpool coastguard station. [86845]

Mike Penning: No individual assessment specific to the closure of Liverpool Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre has been made of the potential effects on public safety.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has assessed on a national basis the safety risks in relation to HM Coastguard's current operation and how these are mitigated by the new structure announced on 22 November 2011. The MCA has also assessed the impact of the new structure on HM Coastguards capability to deliver its national service.

These assessments, as well as a location impact assessment, coastguard centre rationale and supporting tables showing factors taken into consideration in the choice of coastguard centres can be found on the MCA's website:

www.dft.gov.uk/mca

Rescue Services: Wales

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the adequacy of search and rescue services based in England which cover South Wales. [86451]

Mike Penning: We are confident that search and rescue helicopter services in South West England will continue to provide comprehensive cover in South Wales, as they do at present.

Shipping

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the total number of new training roles for UK seafarers that will be created from the approved core training commitments submitted by company groups that have entered the tonnage tax scheme for 2011-12. [86664]

Mike Penning: Approved core training commitments for the 2011-12 training commitment year are for around 600 new first year officer trainees. Company groups are additionally required to provide second and third year training for trainees taken on during the previous two years when they were in the tonnage tax, so the cumulative training commitment for 2011-12 is for around 1,800 officer trainees.

Shipping: Flags

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vessels are owned by each company group that qualified for inclusion in the tonnage tax in 2011-12; and under which flag each such vessel sails. [86663]

Mike Penning: The vessels operated by a tonnage tax company or group may be owned, leased or chartered-in. I am unable to give a breakdown of the vessels operated by company group, as this information is tax confidential. However, the anticipated total number of vessels for all companies entered in the tonnage tax as at 1 October 2011 was 883. Of these, 425 were UK flagged, 105 were under other EEA flags, and 353 were under non-EEA flags.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which flags are flown by ships owned by company groups that qualified for inclusion in the tonnage tax in 2011-12. [86665]

Mike Penning: The ships which company groups anticipated would be included in the tonnage tax at the beginning of the 2011-12 training commitment year were under the following flags: United Kingdom, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Honduras, Hong Kong, Isle of Man, Italy, Liberia, Malta, the Marshall Islands, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Singapore.

Underground Railways: Tyne and Wear

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the oral statement of the then Secretary of State for Transport of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 178, on transport (investment), whether the £4 million funding to accelerate the upgrade of the Tyne and Wear Metro announced in section A.26 of the Autumn Statement 2011 is additional to the £350 million investment announced in the oral statement. [86708]

Norman Baker: The Autumn Statement announcement related to funding brought forward to 2011-12 and reflected the good progress which Nexus is making in delivering its renewal programme. This is part of the Department for Transport's existing contribution towards the asset renewal programme and is not additional.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average percentage change in the level of council tax benefit for *(a)* working families and *(b)* single people in work as a result of the localisation of council tax benefit in each local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [86669]

Robert Neill: *[holding answer 14 December 2011]:* An impact assessment will be published alongside the legislation providing for the localisation of council tax support in England. The actual average impact in each local authority area will depend on how local authorities design their schemes.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many mortgages supported by the Government's new build indemnity scheme he expects to be additional mortgages; and how many such mortgages he estimates would have been issued in any case. [86860]

Grant Shapps: The Government will support up to 100,000 mortgages at up to 95% loan to value through the new build indemnity scheme. As 95% loan to value mortgages for new build are currently available only for properties on a few sites, we expect nearly all mortgages under the scheme to be additional to such mortgages which would have been granted in any case.

Senior Civil Servants: Pay

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* salary and *(b)* other costs associated with each Director General in his Department (i) were in 2010-11 and (ii) are expected to be (A) between April and December 2011, (B) between January and March 2012 and (C) in 2012-13; whether he expects any change in salary or other costs from January 2012 in consequence of the appointment of the permanent secretary in his Department to hold the post of Head of the Civil Service; and if he will make a statement. [86587]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* I do not expect any change in salary or costs for any DCLG director-general as a result of the appointment of Sir Bob Kerslake as Head of the Civil Service. Information on remuneration for board level officials, including director-generals, is published in my Department's annual report and accounts. The information published for director-generals in the 2010-11 annual report and accounts is reproduced in the following table, using the same categories (of salary, bonus payments and benefit-in-kind), together with the equivalent information for April to December 2011 and forecast information for the remaining periods. As bonus payments depend on annual performance as assessed following the end of the performance year, it is not currently possible to forecast whether any of the individuals will receive a bonus payment. All amounts in the table reflect only payments made by DCLG.

	2010-11			*April to December 2011*		
	Salary (£000)	*Bonus payments (£000)*	*Benefits-in-kind*	*Salary (£000)*	*Bonus payments (£000)*	*Benefits-in-kind*
Richard McCarthy[1]	175-179	10-14	—	105-109	10-14	—
Irene Lucas[2]	150-154	5-9	—	n/a	n/a	n/a
Joe Montgomery[3]	125-129	5-9	—	n/a	n/a	n/a
David Prout	130-134	5-9	—	95-99	—	—
David Rossington[4]	120-124	10-14	—	40-44	10-14	—
Shirley Pointer[5]	105-109	5-9	—	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sue Higgins[6]	n/a	n/a	n/a	55-59	[8]—	—
Louise Casey[7]	n/a	n/a	n/a	20-24	[8]—	—

	January to March 2012 (forecast)			*2012-13 (forecast)*		
	Salary (£000)	*Bonus payments (£000)*	*Benefits-in-kind*	*Salary (£000)*	*Bonus payments (£000)*	*Benefits-in-kind*
Richard McCarthy[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Irene Lucas[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Joe Montgomery[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
David Prout	30-34	[8]—	—	130-134	[9]—	—
David Rossington[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shirley Pointer[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

	January to March 2012 (forecast)			2012-13 (forecast)		
	Salary (£000)	Bonus payments (£000)	Benefits-in-kind	Salary (£000)	Bonus payments (£000)	Benefits-in-kind
Sue Higgins[6]	30-34	[8]—	—	135-139	[9]—	—
Louise Casey[7]	30-34	[8]—	—	130-134	[9]—	—

[1] The figure quoted for Richard McCarthy for 'April to December 2011' is for the period 1 April to 10 November 2011, when Mr McCarthy left the Department. The full year equivalent is in the range £175,000-£179,999. The Department is currently recruiting a replacement Director-General, advertised on the basis of a salary of circa £140,000.
[2] The figure quoted for Irene Lucas for '2010-11' includes temporary responsibility allowance for a period where Ms Lucas was acting permanent secretary. The full year director general salary is in the range £145,000-£149,999.
[3] The figure quoted for Joe Montgomery for '2010-11' is for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 January 2011, when Mr Montgomery left the Department. The full year equivalent is in the range £150,000-£154,999.
[4] The figure quoted for David Rossington for 'April to December 2011' is for the period 1 April to 31 July 2011, during which period Mr Rossington was acting director-general, finance and corporate services. The full year equivalent is in the range £130,000-£134,999.
[5] The figure quoted for Shirley Pointer for '2010-11' is for the period 1 April 2010 to 3 January 2011, during which period Ms Pointer was acting director-general, HR and business change. The full year equivalent is in the range £135,000-£139,999.
[6] The figure quoted for Sue Higgins for 'April to December 2011' is for the period 1 August (when Ms Higgins joined DCLG) to 31 December 2011. The full year equivalent is in the range £135,000-£139,999.
[7] The figure quoted for Louise Casey for 'April to December 2011' is for the period 1 November (when Ms Casey joined DCLG) to 31 December 2011. The full year equivalent is in the range £130,000-£134,999.
[8] None due.
[9] Unknown.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the 70 respondents to the Government's consultation on the reform of air passenger duty who commented on class of travel called for seats with less than 40 inches of seat pitch to be liable at the reduced rate. [86477]

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many of the 70 respondents to the Government's consultation on the reform of air passenger duty who commented on class of travel called for seats with 40 inch seat pitch and less to be liable for the reduced rate; [86479]

(2) how many of the 140 respondents to the Government's consultation on the reform of air passenger duty who commented on the banding structure supported *(a)* the retention of a four band structure, *(b)* a three band structure and *(c)* a two band structure; [86481]

(3) how many of the 70 respondents to the Government's consultation on the reform of air passenger duty who commented on class of travel called for *(a)* premium economy passengers to be liable for the reduced rate and *(b)* premium economy passengers to remain liable for standard rate. [86483]

Miss Chloe Smith: I refer the hon. Members to the answer given on 13 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 683W, to the hon. Member for Central Ayrshire (Mr Donohoe).

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of his Department's consultation on the reform of air passenger duty; and how many working hours were spent on the consultation by civil service staff. [86480]

Miss Chloe Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 532W, to the hon. Member for Central Ayrshire (Mr Donohoe).

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date UK airlines were informed of the new air passenger duty rates applicable from 1 April 2012. [86482]

Miss Chloe Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 533W, to the hon. Member for Central Ayrshire (Mr Donohoe).

Bell Pottinger Group

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* political advisers in his Department have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group or (ii) each of its subsidiaries in the last five years; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [80045]

Mr Watson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* he, *(b)* his officials and *(c)* his political advisers have met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group and (ii) clients of Bell Pottinger Group on the recommendation of that Group since May 2010; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [86775]

Miss Chloe Smith: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

A list of ministerial meetings with external stakeholders is published quarterly on the HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

Capital Gains Tax

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who will incur a net loss as a result of the freezing of the Capital Gains Tax annual exempt amount announced in the Autumn Statement. [86857]

Mr Hoban: Freezing the annual exempt amount (AEA) in 2012-13 will affect all individuals with a Capital Gains Tax (CGT) liability in that year. The number of individuals liable to CGT in 2009-10, the latest year for which figures are available, is estimated at 148,000 and is published at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/capital_gains/table14-1.xls

An additional 12,000 taxpayers each year could become liable to CGT over the next five years, as a result of the freeze. However, some individuals will arrange their disposals to keep the gains below the AEA and will therefore have nothing to pay.

Commodity Markets

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the proposed review of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive in relation to commodity derivatives markets. [85219]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 6 December 2011]:* The Government strongly supports the European Commission's review of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) and the objectives to strengthen the Single Market in financial services, to ensure resilient and sound financial markets.

In the MiFID review, the Government supports the principle of strong regulatory oversight powers on commodities markets through the application of a position management regime based on strong supervision and market monitoring, and through measures designed to increase transaction reporting requirements and improve trading transparency. While it is important to keep the scope of exemptions for specialist commodity trading firms under review, the Government does not believe there is currently a strong case for a significant change in the boundaries of MiFID for these firms.

We will be working closely with the European Commission and other EU member states as negotiations proceed to ensure that commodity derivative markets provide robust and consistent price discovery mechanisms for the underlying commodities, and are sufficiently liquid to enable participants to hedge and manage their risks.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which employers are working with his Department to collect real time income data in support of the universal credit. [86707]

Mr Gauke: HMRC is working with a group of employers and software developers to pilot Real Time Information (RTI) in 2012-13. The employers involved in the RTI Pilot are volunteers and have been chosen to be a representative group of organisations operating PAYE. They range in size and complexity from those with one employee to very large complex employers with many employees or pensioners. Those participating include local government, banks, payroll bureaux and agents, retail and manufacturing, farmers, universities, colleges and schools, charities, hotels, film companies, software developers, pension providers and services companies.

HMRC expects all employers and pension providers to be using RTI by October 2013 and appropriate data will be made available to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to support the administration of universal credit.

Departmental Secondment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what secondments there have been to his Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86130]

Miss Chloe Smith: Since 1 August 2010 there have been 41 secondments into HM Treasury from industry. There have been no secondments from the third sector. Appointments have varied in length between two months and two years, with a median of seven months. Secondees into the organisation are used in a variety of roles where internal knowledge is scarce or where specialist skills are required.

Financial Services: Manpower

Hazel Blears: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed in the financial services sector in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* the UK in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008, (v) 2009 and (vi) 2010. [87075]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question concerning how many people were employed in the financial services sector in (a) the North West and (b) the UK in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008, (v) 2009 and (vi) 2010. (87075)

The following table contains the seasonally adjusted number of Workforce Jobs in Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC2007) Section K (financial and insurance activities) for the North West and UK for 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. Section K includes financial service activities, insurance, reinsurance and pension funding (except compulsory social security), and activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities.

Workforce Jobs (WFJ) is a quarterly measure of the number of jobs in the United Kingdom (UK) and is the preferred measure of the change in jobs by industry. It is a compound source that draws on a range of employer surveys, household surveys and administrative sources. WFJ is the sum of employee jobs (EJ) measured primarily by employer surveys, self-employment jobs (SEJ) from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), and government-supported trainees (GST) and Her Majesty's Forces (HMF) from administrative sources.

Workforce Jobs[1, 2]. SIC 2007 section K. Seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	North West	*UK*
2005	108	1,158
2006	106	1,148
2007	110	1,169
2008	111	1,189
2009	114	1,180
2010	94	1,125

[1] Annual figures relate to June quarter (Q2).
[2] Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Income tax: Females

Claire Perry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 130W, on income tax: females, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of taking the *(a)* 59 per cent. in April 2011 and *(b)* 56 per cent. in April 2012 of people out of taxation who are women. [86499]

Mr Gauke: Personal allowances for those aged under 65 have increased by £1,000 in 2011-12 to £7,475 and will increase by a further £630 in 2012-13 to £8,105.

The estimated cost of these measures published at Budget 2011 is shown in the following table:

£ million

	2011-12 measure	*2012-13 measure*
2011-12	-3,340	0
2012-13	-3,580	-1,050
2013-14	-3,620	-1,210
2014-15	-3,710	-1,200
2015-16	-3,820	-1,230

It is estimated that around 1.2% of total exchequer costs of the 2011-12 personal allowance increase were associated with those females taken out of tax as a result of the measure in 2011-12. A comparable figure for the 2012-13 personal allowance increase is 0.3% in 2012-13.

These estimates are Budget 2011 estimates based on the 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes, projected using economic assumptions consistent with the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 economic and fiscal outlook.

Money Advice Service

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will place a copy of the Money Advice Service draft business plan for 2012-13 in the Library; [83463]

(2) how much has been spent on legal advice on staff restructuring by the Money Advice Service in the last 12 months; [83465]

(3) how much has been spent on *(a)* bonus payments and *(b)* foreign travel for senior management by the Money Advice Service in the most recent financial year; [83466]

(4) how many people have started a Money Advice Service financial health check since they were introduced; and how many have been completed; [83467]

(5) what assessment he has made of changes in the level of provision of financial education outreach services through schools, further education colleges, higher education institutions and workplaces by the Money Advice Service in the last 12 months; [83468]

(6) how many *(a)* face-to-face meetings and *(b)* responses to telephone enquiries he expects the Money Advice Service will deliver in each of the next three financial years; [83469]

(7) how much of Money Advice Service's budget has been spent on *(a)* advertising, *(b)* public relations and *(c)* marketing in the last year; and how much it plans to spend on such activities next year; [83470]

(8) whether the Money Advice Service is a public body under the Freedom of Information Act provisions. [83805]

Mr Hoban: The Money Advice Service is an independent body, funded by a levy on the financial services industry. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for approving its Business Plan and Budget. The Money Advice Service will publish its Business Plan and Budget for 2012-13 in March 2012.

I have asked the Money Advice Service to respond to the detailed points you have raised in writing. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Government are committed to the principle of open Government. They want to make it easy for people to find out information that is relevant to them, to aid accountability and increase public understanding of decisions which affect them. The Freedom of Information Act does not currently apply to the Money Advice Service. The Government are however seeking to extend coverage of the Act to further bodies under section 5 of the Act, and will keep the position of the Money Advice Service under review.

Ofgem: Fines

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue his Department has collected as a result of fines imposed by Ofgem in each of the last 10 years. [86526]

Miss Chloe Smith: The following fines/penalties have been collected by Ofgem over the past 10 years and paid into the Consolidated Fund:

	£
2001-02	—
2002-03	2,000,000
2003-04	400,000
2004-05	1,900,000
2005-06	—
2006-07	—
2007-08	25,000
2008-09	1,800,000
2009-10	2,000,000
2010-11	15,810,000
2011-12 (to 12 December 2011)	10,000,000

In addition, Ofgem has announced two further fines in 2011-12 totalling £4,500,000 (of which £2,500,000 is proposed and £2,000,000 awaiting collection).

Personal Pensions

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what dates *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* senior officials in his Department have met representatives of (i) the British Bankers Association and (ii) the Association of British Insurers to discuss the charges, commission or fees paid by people with a private pension since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [86866]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of

policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Rebates: Fraud

Dr Huppert: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of payments for tax refunds being fraudulently redirected as a result of websites that impersonate Government websites in the last three financial years. [86764]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs do not have an estimate of the cost of tax refund payments being fraudulently redirected as a result of websites that impersonate Government websites.

Taxation: Switzerland

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what date he expects the UK-Switzerland taxation agreement announced on 24 August 2011 to be implemented. [86856]

Mr Hoban: The Government's aim is for the agreement between the UK and Switzerland on co-operation in tax matters to come into force on 1 January 2013. This allows for the time needed to complete parliamentary procedures in both countries.

Union of Good: USA

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what communication he has had with the US Treasury on the activities of the Union of Good; and if he will make a statement. [86594]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of international partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will raise at the UN the issue of electoral irregularities during the recent elections in Democratic Republic of Congo. [86086]

Mr Bellingham: I have been asked to reply.

The British Government raised our concerns about reports of irregularities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) elections when the Head of the UN Peacekeeping Mission to DRC (MONUSCO) briefed the Security Council on 2 December. Following this meeting the UN Security Council issued a statement welcoming the good turnout of voters in the elections, but expressing concern at the reports of logistical problems during the election process. Following the release of the full provisional election results, on 12 December MONUSCO released a further statement urging the electoral commission to address the irregularities identified by observer groups.

We will continue to work with international partners to urge the DRC authorities to investigate and address all irregularities.

EU External Trade: Cocoa

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department plans to make to the development of a new European standard for sustainable and traceable cocoa; and what steps he plans to take to ensure that the standard meets the demands of smallholder cocoa producers in developing countries and acts as a driver to improve their social and economic development. [86720]

Mr Duncan: The new European standard for sustainable and traceable cocoa is being developed by the standards body for the industry itself. This body is independent.

The Department for International Development has not engaged in any consultation with the British Standards Institute. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have also confirmed that they have not engaged in any consultation.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of total *(a)* commitments and *(b)* payments to the Global Fund for (i) HIV/AIDS, (ii) malaria and (iii) tuberculosis have been made by the UK in each of the last five years. [86191]

Mr Duncan: UK pledges (commitments) and contributions (payments) to the fund over the past five years are as follows:

UK's share of total pledges and contributions to the Global Fund for 2007-11

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
UK pledge	187,202,000	78,520,000	184,071,300	199,680,000	199,680,000
All pledges	2,532,763,541	2,920,108,597	3,121,074,520	3,296,886,375	2,840,838,958
UK share (percentage)	7.39	2.69	5.89	6.05	7.02
UK contribution	187,202,000	78,520,000	184,071,300	308,341,640	434,126,769
All contributions	2,534,998,752	2,920,108,597	2,949,139,270	2,783,321,164	1,813,644,669
UK share (percentage)	7,38	2.69	6.24	11	23.9

Cumulative proportion of total pledges since inception:

The UK has pledged a total of £1,409 million to the Global Fund. This is equivalent to USD $2,306,282,555 and constitutes nearly 8% of the total USD $29,047,815,412 pledged by all government donors to the fund.

Cumulative proportion of total contributions:

The UK contribution to date amounts to £997.1 million, equivalent to USD $1,665,201,387 and constitutes 8.4% of the total of USD $19,711,676,679 received in contributions to the fund.

Donors do not earmark their contributions to any particular disease, country or activity. The cumulative proportion of actual grant expenditure between the three diseases, as of January 2011, is HIV 57%, Malaria 29%, TB 14%.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Farms: Regulation

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress her Department has made on reducing the administrative demands placed on farmers by environmental regulations. [85567]

Mr Paice: The Government have introduced the one-in, one-out rule, meaning that no new domestic legislation imposing costs on business can be introduced without the identification and removal of existing regulations with an equivalent value. Since January 2011, only two measures impacting the farming sector have been introduced. Both are of a deregulatory nature, with a net saving of approximately £730,000 per annum.

In my written statement of 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 40-41WS, I announced the publication of the interim response to the independent Farm Regulation Task Force. We will publish a final response in early 2012.

We also aim to reduce burdens placed on farmers by environmental regulations under the Red Tape Challenge Environment Theme, on which an announcement will be made in the spring, and the Water and Marine Theme, which will be launched in February.

Food: Illegal Imports

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding she has allocated to the "Don't bring me back campaign" *(a)* in 2011-12 and *(b)* in each of the next three years. [86566]

Mr Paice: To date, no funds have been allocated to the "Don't bring me back" campaign for 2011-12, in line with the Government's commitment to deliver communications at no or low cost. An indicative budget of no more than £25,000 may be drawn upon in the event that paid-for activity is required, but we will continue to make use of no cost channels as the first choice option.

For the next three years, DEFRA will continue to prioritise no cost or low cost communications activity to raise awareness about illegal imports of products of animal origin, and anticipates a budget of less than £25,000 per annum on paid-for communication. The aim of the communication is to raise awareness and to reduce the risk of contaminated food being brought into the UK and putting people, animals and agriculture at risk of disease.

DEFRA is also exploring with other Government Departments such as the UK Border Agency and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the use of free/low cost communication media to continue to help raise travellers' awareness of the rules on personal imports of animal products.

Food Supply

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the prospects for UK food security at each extreme of population range projected by the Office for National Statistics for 2050. [86819]

Mr Paice: I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply given to the hon. Members for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Cathy Jamieson) and Totnes (Dr Wollaston) on 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1053W.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Government Assistance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding over £100,000 his Department's Finance and Commercial Directorate allocated to partner organisations in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [86888]

Mr Davey: BIS's Finance and Commercial Directorate did not allocate any funding to partner organisations in either 2010-11 or 2011-12.

Details of the amounts of grant in aid for each of BIS's partner organisations may be found in the notes pages to the 2010-11 and 2011-12 Main Estimates.

Export Credits Guarantees: Libya

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which projects have led to debt being owed by Libya to the Export Credits Guarantee Department since 1981. [84108]

Mr Davey: There are no outstanding amounts owed by Libya to ECGD.

Intellectual Property

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to implement the recommendations on exception in the Hargreaves Report on intellectual property. [86789]

Mr Davey: On 14 December, the Government launched their consultation on how to take forward the copyright recommendations of the Hargreaves Report, including the recommendation to modernise the UK's exceptions

to copyright. The consultation will run until 21 March 2012 and the Government hope that all those with an interest in how we can best ensure that our copyright system is fit for the digital age will take the opportunity to respond to it.

During 2012 the Government will continue to deliver the commitments set out in their response to the Hargreaves Review of Intellectual Property and Growth, and this will include a response to the consultation on copyright.

The Government have separately announced, on 22 November, the appointment of Richard Hooper to lead a feasibility study into a Digital Copyright Exchange.

Scholarships

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount per student that the National Scholarship Programme will be worth in *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* 2014-15. [86492]

Mr Hayes: The National Scholarship Programme is designed to benefit students whose family income is no greater than £25,000. Participating universities and colleges establish their own eligibility criteria, based on their own circumstances, to determine whom to help from among this broad group of people.

All institutions that intend to charge more than the basic rate for tuition from 2012 are required to participate in the programme and contribute match funding. Universities are responsible for advertising their criteria and making the awards.

In the first year, the Government will contribute £50 million towards the NSP. The Government's contribution rises to £100 million in 2013-14 and £150 million in 2014-15. The minimum level for an award in 2012/13 is set at £3,000 for each eligible full-time student. Part time students studying to a minimum intensity of 25% can receive a pro-rata award. Arrangements for future years have not been announced.

Universities and colleges can use their match funding to either increase the number of awards available, or the value of an award.

Students: Loans

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of access to higher education student loans taken out in the academic year 2013-14 which will be repaid in full if the proposed changes to further education fee structures are implemented. [81529]

Mr Hayes: The Impact Assessment published alongside the New Challenges, New Chances consultation on further education (FE) loans included an assumption that 40% of the value of loans taken out will be repaid. This applies to all loans taken out from the academic year 2013/14 onwards, for all types of course. There is, however, no information available specifically for the subset of FE learners who are taking 'Access to HE' qualifications. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is carrying out further research and analysis to improve the accuracy of the simulation model used to calculate the figure above.

The Impact Assessment can be found on the BIS website on the following link:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/f/11-1218-further-education-loans-impact-assessment

Tourism: Arts

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the consequences for inbound tourism to London of planned changes to the art market in 2012. [86785]

Mr Davey: On 1 January 2012, the Artist's Resale Right Directive 2001 will be fully implemented in the UK, when Resale Right is automatically extended to sales of in copyright works by qualifying deceased artists. On the same date, Statutory Instrument No. 2873 will come into force, correcting the requirements as to the nationality of those entitled to exercise Artist's Resale Right.

No specific assessment of the effect of these changes on tourism has been made, however the total economic impact of the right once extended to deceased artists has been assessed at less than 0.15% of market turnover (around £12 million in royalties in a market worth £8 billion per year) and accordingly the extension is not considered likely to damage the market. The changes made by the Statutory Instrument on the other hand are actually estimated to reduce administrative costs for the art market by 10% to 20%.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Electronic Equipment: House of Commons

Simon Hart: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many iPads have been purchased for use by House of Commons staff; and what the cost of such purchases was in 2011. [85869]

John Thurso: Since 1 January 2011, 17 iPads have been purchased for use by staff of the House of Commons and 17 iPads have been purchased for the use of PICT staff. They are being used to explore how mobile computing might be used to support the work of Parliament, and what cost savings or environmental benefits might be gained. A similar pilot is taking place with hon. Members on the Administration Committee.

The iPads were models iPad 1 and 2 with 3G and wi-fi connection. The total cost of the devices was £17,019.59.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Democratic Republic of Congo: Elections

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the conduct of the recent election in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [86875]

Mr Bellingham: I was pleased that the observer missions reported that polling day in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) elections was largely peaceful with a good turnout of voters. I am also pleased that, following lobbying by the British Government and others, the DRC electoral commission published results from each polling station. However I remain concerned at the reports of irregularities throughout the process, and particularly during the compilation of results. We continue to urge the Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante to address all reported irregularities quickly and transparently. We also encourage anyone with evidence of wrongdoing to make it public so that an overall assessment of the election process can be made and lessons learned.

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards. [85858]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office are in discussion with our UK catering contractor, Compass, who are committed to the Responsibility Deal, to explore how and when we might introduce this initiative without an overall increase in costs.

It would incur disproportionate cost to source this data from our network of posts and our public bodies as this information is held locally.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure the countries of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85859]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's UK catering contractor, Compass, provide this information to staff when requested within the UK.

It would incur disproportionate cost to source this data from our network of 260 posts and our public bodies, as this information is held locally.

Departmental Civil Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83888]

Mr Lidington: Our records show that the only organisation that has received funding from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) that has brought legal proceedings against the Foreign Secretary in the last five years is Reprieve. Reprieve receives a modest grant from the FCO to support work to prevent the execution of British nationals facing the death penalty overseas.

In February 2010 Reprieve brought judicial review proceedings against the Foreign Secretary and other Government Ministers in connection with guidance to UK officials on their role and responsibilities in relation to the interviewing of detainees in foreign detention who may be subject to mistreatment. The proceedings were not successful. The Administrative Court refused Reprieve permission to bring the judicial review proceedings and ordered them to pay part of the Government's costs, amounting to £2,000. Reprieve has now paid this sum.

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [85705]

Mr Lidington: The Westminster Foundation for Democracy, the Great Britain-China Centre and the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission all hold single risk registers assessing the following categories of risk: strategic/corporate/reputational, financial, operations and projects and programmes. The British Council also has a risk register covering these issues. They also hold risk registers for each country, each sector, each business unit and customer management. Establishing how many registers they maintain globally would incur disproportionate cost.

Khaled al-Johani

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Saudi Arabia on Khaled al-Johani. [86724]

Alistair Burt: We have not specifically raised Mr al-Johani's case with the Saudi Arabian Government. However, Ministers and officials do take every opportunity to raise with the Saudi authorities our full range of human rights concerns, including detention without trial. I did so most recently when I called on the National Society for Human Rights on 23 November, a Saudi human rights organisation with close links to the Saudi Arabian Government.

Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill 2010-12

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 56W, on Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill 2010-12, and with reference to his confirmation of the UK's commitment to the Ruggie principles, what assessment he has made of the letter sent by Professor Ruggie to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, the hon. Member for Huntingdon (Mr Djanogly), on the effects of his proposed reforms in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill on the ability of impecunious people to secure representation and justice in cases *(a)* against businesses and *(b)* of human rights abuse. [86843]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Following the UN Human Rights Council's endorsement in June of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, in which the UK played an important role, the Government are fully committed to implementing those principles as part of a wider strategy on business and human rights. We do not believe that the reform of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill is incompatible with this commitment. We believe that it will still be possible to bring claims against *(a)* multinational companies or *(b)* those allegedly guilty of human rights abuses once these reforms are implemented. However, reforms will help ensure that meritorious claims will be resolved at a more proportional cost; while unnecessary and avoidable claims will be deterred from progressing to court.

Libya: Terrorism

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made by the specialist unit in his Department in negotiations with the new Libyan government on compensation for victims of terrorism in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [86227]

Alistair Burt: A specialist unit was set up under the previous Administration in 2009. The remit of the officers in the dedicated FCO Unit has been to offer facilitation, logistical support and general advice to the campaign seeking compensation for the victims of IRA terrorism that was sponsored by Libya through the supply of Semtex. They have also accompanied representatives of the victims at meetings with the Libyan Government.

Properly addressing legacy issues will be an important part of the UK's relationship with Libya. I raised this with the Libyan Transitional Government during my visit to Tripoli on 6-8 December. I made clear our desire to see progress on outstanding issues from the Gaddafi era. The newly appointed Foreign Minister Ashour Ben Khayyal agreed that we would take forward discussions on this.

The campaigns seeking compensation for IRA victims are private. The terms of the campaigns and the range of victims are therefore also private. However, we understand at this stage that no settlement has been made.

Saudi Arabia: Counter-terrorism

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Saudi Arabian counterparts on a proposed anti-terror law for Saudi Arabia. [86725]

Alistair Burt: We have been aware of the draft counter-terrorism law since Amnesty International reported on this matter in June and officials have raised concerns with the Saudi Arabian Government. There is widespread acceptance in the Saudi Government and Saudi human rights organisations that the draft anti-terror law is unsuitable in its present form: the current draft is extremely unlikely to pass into law.

Sergei Magnitsky

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates Mr William Browder visited his Department to discuss the case of Sergei Magnitsky; and which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials he met on each such occasion. [86848]

Mr Lidington: The information requested is as follows:

(a) I met Mr William Browder on 7 March 2011 to discuss the case of Sergei Magnitsky.

(b) The Director Eastern Europe and Central Asia met Mr William Browder on 19 March 2009, 20 November 2009, 6 October 2010 and 13 December 2011 to discuss the case of Sergei Magnitsky.

Union of Good: USA

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the US government on the Union of Good; and if he will make a statement. [86593]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of international partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Extradition: USA

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Attorney-General with reference to the contribution by the Minister of State for Immigration of 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 128, on UK extradition arrangements, whether any of the evidence against Babar Ahmad that is in the possession of the US authorities was gathered by *(a)* UK authorities and passed to the US and *(b)* US authorities on UK soil. [85893]

Damian Green: I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for mutual legal assistance as that is the mechanism by which evidence is transferred from one jurisdiction to another in a criminal case. It is our usual policy neither to confirm nor deny whether the UK authorities have provided evidence or other formal assistance in support of foreign criminal proceedings so as not to prejudice those proceedings; and therefore I cannot confirm or deny whether or not that took place in this case.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Nightclubs: Fees and Charges

Mark Menzies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what representations she has received on the practice of charging differential fees to men and women for entry to nightclubs. [86060]

Lynne Featherstone: I have received no representations on the practice of charging men and women differential entry fees for entry to nightclubs.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the completion date for the two aircraft carriers that are currently under construction have changed; and what the causes of any such delay are. [85234]

Peter Luff: The currently approved planned in-service dates for HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales are quarter four of 2016 and quarter four of 2018 respectively.

The completion dates for construction have not changed. However, the Strategic Defence and Security Review called for one operational Queen Elizabeth class carrier to be converted to support the more capable Carrier Variant of the Joint Strike Fighter and we are investigating the optimum solution to meet that requirement. On current plans, we expect to conclude work to enable firm decisions on the optimum conversion solution for the operational carrier in late 2012. Depending on the outcome of that work, the completion date for the construction of the carriers may change. Either way we will have an operational carrier from around 2020.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 977W, on armed forces: recruitment, what the cost per recruit was of medical assessments for potential pilots; and if he will make a statement. [86502]

Mr Robathan: We do not hold records for the cost per recruit of medical assessments for potential pilots. All officer candidates undergo medical assessments, although there are additional tests for potential aircrew.

Armed Forces: Young People

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average expenditure per Army recruit was of recruiting and training to identical roles recruits who were aged *(a)* under 18 years and *(b)* 18 years or above in the latest period for which figures are available. [86636]

Mr Robathan: The average cost of recruiting an Army recruit in financial year (FY) 2010-11 was £10,000; this covers the full recruitment process, including selection, and does not vary between those who are under or over 18 years of age.

The following table provides the average expenditure for the full cost of providing Phase 1 training, including accommodation, meals, welfare, health and other support per Army recruit for FY 2010-11.

	Duration of course (weeks)	*Under 18 (£)*	*Over 18 (£)*
Full cost of training per recruit at Army Technical Foundation College, Winchester	23	53,985	n/a
Full cost of training per recruit at Army Foundation College, Harrogate	50	64,458	n/a
Full cost of training per recruit at Army Training Centre, Pirbright	14	n/a	21,318
Full cost of training per recruit at Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourn	14	n/a	26,992
Full cost of training per recruit at Infantry Training Centre, Catterick (Phase 1)	14	n/a	26,543

n/a = not applicable

The average unit rate varies depending on both the number of recruits being trained and the course duration at each training site.

Information relating to the average expenditure per recruit for Phase 2 training is not available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. This is because Phase 2 (trade training) varies for each of the over 220 trades offered by the Army, both in terms of content and course length. However, as Phase 2 training is not age dependent, there would be no difference in any average training cost for a specific trade between those who are under or over the age of 18.

Defence Equipment

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Blaydon (Mr Anderson) of 21 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 1167W, on defence equipment, what the cost was of using Ministry of Defence-owned road vehicles to transport military kit in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2009-10; on how many occasions Ministry of Defence-owned road vehicles were used to transport military kit in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [86501]

Peter Luff: The use of Ministry of Defence owned road vehicles to transport defence equipment is primarily undertaken at unit level. Journeys are not individually costed or recorded centrally and the requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to the letter of 25 November 2011 from the hon. Member for Harrow West to the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans; and if he will make a statement. [86887]

Mr Robathan: A reply was sent on 12 December 2011. The hon. Member's letter was received on 1 December 2011 and received a response within eight working days. The Ministry of Defence aims to answer correspondence from hon. Members within 15 working days.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of upgrading the two purchased F-35B variants to the standards required by the US Marine Corps after the completion of testing. [86282]

Peter Luff: The previous Government ordered three F-35B aircraft for test and evaluation purposes. One has been exchanged for a F-35C variant. The mission systems for the F-35B and F-35C are largely the same but, the UK is upgrading the Short Take Off and Vertical Landing Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) for its own purposes in order to conduct initial operational test of JSF alongside US Services. We have included sufficient funding within the original financial approval for these aircraft to ensure that they are upgraded to the appropriate standard for these tests. The US Marine Corps have no input to these decisions.

RAF Leuchars

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 234W, on RAF Leuchars, when he plans to place in the Library a copy of the sustainability appraisal. [86640]

Nick Harvey: A copy of the sustainability appraisal report was placed in the Library of the House on 13 December 2011.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what alterations will be required to RAF Leuchars to transform it to an operational Army base; what estimate he has made of the cost of any such alterations; and if he will make a statement. [86646]

Nick Harvey: Work has begun to determine the precise capacity of the defence estate as we seek to maximise its use and rationalise where appropriate. Until this work is completed it is too early to say what alterations will be required to RAF Leuchars or how much this will cost.

EDUCATION

Schools: Manpower

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants, *(c)* special educational needs (SEN) teachers and *(d)* SEN assistants were employed in each local authority in (i) May 2010 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [83474]

Mr Gibb: The following table provides the headcount of teachers and teaching assistants in publicly funded schools in England broken down by local authority and region in November 2010, the latest information available. Those employed in local authority maintained special schools are separately identified.

SEN teachers/assistants have been defined as those (a) working in special schools, (b) having a SEN co-ordinator role in other publicly funded schools or (c) having a learning support assistant for SEN pupils role in other publicly funded schools.

Number (headcount) of teachers[1], teaching assistants, SEN co-ordinators and SEN assistants in publicly funded schools (including academies) in each local authority[2]. Year: November 2010. Coverage: Local authorities in England

	In all publicly funded schools	*of which in special schools*	*Teachers who are SEN co-ordinators (except in special schools)*	*In all publicly funded schools*	*of which in special schools*	*Teaching assistants who are learning support assistants (for SEN pupils) or SEN co-ordinators (except in special schools)*
England	493,430	16,840	2,140	341,170	30,550	33,400
Gateshead	1,920	90	20	870	100	80
Newcastle upon Tyne	2,440	130	20	1,300	140	210
North Tyneside	2,000	110	—	800	110	50
South Tyneside	1,050	60	—	550	50	40
Sunderland	2,800	110	—	1,820	230	70
Hartlepool	940	30	—	800	80	30
Middlesbrough	1,420	70	10	980	150	10
Redcar and Cleveland	1,400	60	10	970	150	60
Stockton on Tees	1,810	70	—	1,170	110	30
Durham	4,630	170	10	2,340	250	450
Darlington	830	40	—	570	50	—
Northumberland	3,840	80	—	1,930	160	20
North East	25,100	1,000	70	14,120	1,590	1,040
Cumbria	4,480	80	30	2,340	170	280
East Cheshire	3,380	50	—	1,990	80	—
Cheshire West and Chester	3,130	130	—	1,690	240	—
Halton	1,150	50	10	630	80	60
Warrington	2,020	60	10	1,240	70	60
Bolton	2,720	100	—	1,880	180	40

Number (headcount) of teachers[1], teaching assistants, SEN co-ordinators and SEN assistants in publicly funded schools (including academies) in each local authority[2]. Year: November 2010. Coverage: Local authorities in England

	In all publicly funded schools	*of which in special schools*	*Teachers who are SEN co-ordinators (except in special schools)*	*In all publicly funded schools*	*of which in special schools*	*Teaching assistants who are learning support assistants (for SEN pupils) or SEN co-ordinators (except in special schools)*
Bury	1,640	60	—	1,330	90	480
Manchester	4,270	200	10	2,740	380	40
Oldham	2,270	90	—	1,800	150	10
Rochdale	1,990	90	10	1,790	190	40
Salford	1,430	20	—	160	—	—
Stockport	2,620	80	30	1,760	130	180
Tameside	2,130	70	—	1,190	110	40
Trafford	2,100	90	—	990	110	30
Wigan	3,150	120	—	3,340	340	10
Lancashire	10,850	390	—	9,610	850	20
Blackburn with Darwen	1,580	60	—	1,420	110	900
Blackpool	1,250	50	—	850	60	50
Knowsley	1,410	100	—	1,080	120	50
Liverpool	4,280	170	20	1,880	230	100
St Helens	1,440	60	—	1,000	100	20
Sefton	2,710	90	50	1,810	150	30
Wirral	3,390	170	10	1,770	260	50
North West	65,370	2,380	200	44,290	4,200	2,490
Kingston upon Hull, City of	2,290	90	—	1,940	230	40
East Riding of Yorkshire	2,970	40	10	2,270	180	60
North East Lincolnshire	1,440	40	20	1,170	160	50
North Lincolnshire	1,430	40	10	1,170	130	10
North Yorkshire	4,840	130	—	3,130	200	—
York	1,450	30	—	780	90	10
Barnsley	1,900	40	20	1,460	120	150
Doncaster	2,850	80	10	3,610	190	1,320
Rotherham	2,900	100	—	2,120	230	70
Sheffield	4,610	180	—	3,040	290	30
Bradford	5,560	120	20	4,390	380	310
Calderdale	2,180	50	—	1,540	110	490
Kirklees	4,090	120	—	2,560	190	20
Leeds	6,860	160	—	5,180	280	60
Wakefield	2,980	100	—	2,370	170	720
Yorkshire and the Humber	48,350	1,300	110	36,710	2,940	3,330
Derbyshire	6,770	140	50	4,730	270	310
Derby	2,100	70	—	1,580	140	70
Leicestershire	6,200	130	—	4,410	420	1,810
Leicester	3,110	140	—	2,520	250	60
Rutland	290	10	—	190	10	40
Lincolnshire	6,140	270	20	4,800	500	90
Northamptonshire	6,900	240	90	5,610	520	1,180
Nottinghamshire	7,600	180	40	4,210	340	120
Nottingham	2,590	70	20	1,770	130	30
East Midlands	41,700	1,250	220	29,830	2,580	3,690
Herefordshire	1,460	50	20	1,120	110	60
Worcestershire	5,340	210	—	4,410	390	10
Shropshire	2,980	60	20	2,500	110	370
Telford and Wrekin	1,420	70	—	1,360	110	10
Staffordshire	7,840	310	—	4,870	520	110
Stoke on Trent	2,150	70	—	1,430	110	190
Warwickshire	5,100	200	30	3,430	340	40
Birmingham	11,540	600	100	7,050	790	50
Coventry	3,420	150	—	1,850	190	30

Number (headcount) of teachers[1], teaching assistants, SEN co-ordinators and SEN assistants in publicly funded schools (including academies) in each local authority[2]. Year: November 2010. Coverage: Local authorities in England

	In all publicly funded schools	*of which in special schools*	*Teachers who are SEN co-ordinators (except in special schools)*	*In all publicly funded schools*	*of which in special schools*	*Teaching assistants who are learning support assistants (for SEN pupils) or SEN co-ordinators (except in special schools)*
Dudley	3,020	100	—	2,780	190	20
Sandwell	3,260	60	10	2,490	160	340
Solihull	2,410	90	—	1,450	140	20
Walsall	2,740	100	10	2,040	160	120
Wolverhampton	2,580	120	—	1,390	180	60
West Midlands	55,230	2,190	190	38,150	3,490	1,420
Cambridgeshire	4,940	150	30	4,060	340	30
Peterborough	1,760	60	10	1,570	120	90
Norfolk	7,120	170	100	6,320	410	1,010
Suffolk	7,000	170	10	4,810	330	640
Bedford borough	1,780	50	10	1,100	120	80
Central Bedfordshire	3,110	90	20	1,710	160	180
Luton	2,100	50	10	1,850	150	120
Essex	12,170	280	60	9,000	670	1,990
Southend on Sea	1,960	80	—	1,200	150	260
Thurrock	1,300	60	10	940	90	120
Hertfordshire	12,930	440	70	7,170	600	840
East of England	56,160	1,620	320	39,720	3,130	5,360
Camden	1,610	50	10	1,020	110	90
City of London	20	—	—	20	—	—
Hackney	1,920	60	10	1,210	80	180
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,300	60	10	630	100	90
Haringey	2,350	90	10	1,380	100	250
Islington	1,600	60	10	1,050	110	20
Kensington and Chelsea	790	20	—	540	40	80
Lambeth	2,340	70	20	1,630	120	140
Lewisham	2,050	110	10	1,450	90	100
Newham	3,100	30	10	2,220	70	120
Southwark	2,490	90	20	1,790	140	230
Tower Hamlets	3,030	100	20	2,190	190	120
Wandsworth	2,310	150	10	1,790	350	250
Westminster	1,540	30	10	850	40	200
Inner London	26,460	930	130	17,750	1,540	1,860
Barking and Dagenham	2,170	50	10	1,090	80	300
Barnet	3,720	90	30	2,240	170	170
Bexley	2,370	70	—	1,480	150	10
Brent	2,850	90	20	1,490	150	270
Bromley	2,930	100	10	1,950	170	350
Croydon	3,440	110	20	2,260	180	180
Ealing	2,950	110	20	1,610	240	220
Enfield	3,420	100	30	2,140	140	270
Greenwich	2,600	110	10	2,060	220	360
Harrow	2,030	80	20	1,280	80	340
Havering	2,390	50	10	1,680	100	220
Hillingdon	2,890	110	10	1,950	180	300
Hounslow	2,410	80	10	1,100	110	70
Kingston upon Thames	1,590	50	10	850	100	80
Merton	1,530	50	—	960	60	220
Redbridge	3,190	140	30	1,690	190	430
Richmond upon Thames	1,280	30	10	740	40	160
Sutton	2,120	60	20	1,080	60	190
Waltham Forest	2,430	170	10	1,470	230	240
Outer London	48,300	1,630	270	29,110	2,650	4,380

Number (headcount) of teachers[1], teaching assistants, SEN co-ordinators and SEN assistants in publicly funded schools (including academies) in each local authority[2]. Year: November 2010. Coverage: Local authorities in England

	In all publicly funded schools	*of which in special schools*	*Teachers who are SEN co-ordinators (except in special schools)*	*In all publicly funded schools*	*of which in special schools*	*Teaching assistants who are learning support assistants (for SEN pupils) or SEN co-ordinators (except in special schools)*
London	74,750	2,560	410	46,860	4,190	6,240
Bracknell Forest	880	30	10	670	50	100
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,300	20	10	940	90	70
West Berkshire	1,800	70	10	1,420	100	190
Reading	1,270	40	10	930	90	60
Slough	1,650	90	10	1,060	90	150
Wokingham	1,620	60	10	1,280	90	260
Buckinghamshire	5,570	200	30	3,260	340	820
Milton Keynes	2,740	140	10	2,070	210	230
East Sussex	4,200	190	10	3,310	290	170
Brighton and Hove	2,200	140	—	1,590	210	70
Hampshire	10,860	360	160	7,000	720	840
Portsmouth	1,580	120	—	1,340	220	40
Southampton	1,790	70	10	1,380	130	320
Isle of Wight	1,220	40	—	1,020	130	200
Kent	14,880	580	80	10,550	1,300	470
Medway	2,540	100	30	1,820	170	160
Oxfordshire	5,960	180	20	4,720	370	450
Surrey	9,180	380	70	7,160	630	1,180
West Sussex	7,380	250	20	4,760	350	540
South East	78,620	3,080	480	56,270	5,560	6,290
Isles of Scilly	40	—	—	30	—	—
Bath and North East Somerset	1,770	70	10	1,090	130	120
Bristol, City of	3,370	160	20	1,940	260	560
North Somerset	1,840	40	—	1,130	80	350
South Gloucestershire	2,620	60	10	1,430	90	60
Cornwall	4,840	70	20	4,230	170	110
Devon	6,620	160	10	5,220	340	380
Plymouth	2,510	120	—	2,110	220	30
Torbay	1,260	70	10	870	100	40
Dorset	3,700	110	20	2,640	220	70
Poole	1,160	50	—	810	100	30
Bournemouth	1,300	50	—	860	100	10
Gloucestershire	6,260	220	20	3,930	480	390
Somerset	4,550	90	10	4,150	260	1,240
Wiltshire	4,410	120	10	3,140	180	100
Swindon	1,900	100	10	1,680	170	30
South West	48,150	1,490	140	35,210	2,880	3,540

[1] Includes qualified and unqualified teachers but excludes occasional teachers.
[2] Figures are based on completed School Workforce Census returns.
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. '—' = nil or negligible.
3. Totals may not appear equal to the sum of the component parts because of rounding.
Source:
School Workforce Census (November 2010)

PRIME MINISTER

Bell Pottinger

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister whether his *(a)* Chief of Staff and *(b)* Director of Strategy has met representatives of (i) Bell Pottinger Group and (ii) clients of Bell Pottinger Group on the recommendation of that Group since May 2010; on what dates any such meetings took place; and what was discussed. [86774]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 234W, to the hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann).

EU Action

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what discussions he had with the Office of First and Deputy First Minister in Northern Ireland on the most recent European Council meeting; [86709]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on Northern Ireland of the outcome of the most recent European Council meeting. [86710]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 529, to the right hon. Member for Belfast North (Mr Dodds).

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Alun Michael: To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* name and *(b)* payscale is of each special adviser appointed since 14 October 2011. [86855]

The Prime Minister: An updated list of special advisers, and their pay bands, is published quarterly. This is available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy Performance Certificates

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of private rented sector accommodation units in energy performance certificate bands *(a)* E, *(b)* F and *(c)* G in the London borough of Brent. [86478]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

The English Housing Survey does not enable an estimate to be made at local authority level. However, the survey does provide a national estimate of the numbers of privately rented accommodation in each energy performance certificate band. The national estimate is included in the latest published English Housing Survey Tables (Housing Stock Summary Statistics Table 7.1):

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1937429.xls

Carbon Sequestration

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he had with representatives of the carbon capture and storage industry before the announcement by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on carbon capture and storage funding in this Parliament. [85901]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* My right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury has not made an announcement on CCS funding in this Parliament. My colleagues and I, at ministerial and official level, meet regularly with industry representatives to discuss CCS. This includes discussions about funding and we have been clear that £1 billion is available to support CCS projects.

Departmental Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what support staff *(a)* he and *(b)* his special advisers employ other than the staff in his private office. [86609]

Gregory Barker: None.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* salary grade and *(b)* title is of each member of staff in his private office who is (A) a civil servant, (B) a special adviser and (C) another political appointee. [86611]

Gregory Barker: Please see following table showing details of staffing in the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change's private office. All staff are civil servants and there are no other political appointees.

Grade	*Title*	*Number*
Senior Civil Servant, PB1	Principal Private Secretary to Secretary of State	1
Special Adviser, PB2	Special Adviser to Secretary of State	2
Grade 6	Deputy Principal Private Secretary to Secretary of State	1
Fast stream	Private Secretary to Secretary of State	3
HEO	Diary Manager to Secretary of State	1
Grade 7	Speech Writer to Secretary of State	1

Salary information is already published. Please see following links.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/about_decc/about_decc.aspx

http://lis/decc/human-resources/handbook/pay-awards.html

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his private office *(a)* previously worked for a political party and *(b)* are on secondment. [86612]

Gregory Barker: None.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in the private office of the *(a)* Minister of State for Climate Change and *(b)* Minister of State for Energy are on secondment. [86613]

Gregory Barker: None.

Electricity Generation

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ipswich (Ben Gummer), of 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 40W, on

electricity generation, what estimate his Department has made of the costs of moving to a pooled system of retail energy sales; and what cost-benefit analysis he has undertaken of such a move; [86672]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on competition in the retail energy sector of moving to a pooled system of retail energy sales; [86673]

(3) what discussions his Department has had with small retail energy suppliers on the effect on their business model of moving to a pooled system of retail energy sales. [86671]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 14 December 2011]*: The UK operated under a pool system prior to privatisation, thereafter we moved to a system of bilateral contracting (NETA), in common with most other European counties. However, a reversion to a pool system would be costly, disruptive and would take years to implement. As an illustration, estimated costs in 2004 of the transition from the pool to NETA were in the region of £700 million.

There are alternative approaches to improving energy market competition. Ofgem, are leading work aimed at increasing market liquidity in order to ensure that small and independent suppliers and generators have fair access to the market. A pool would not necessarily solve the problems facing smaller market participants—in particular a pool would not in itself improve forward market liquidity.

Nuclear Power: Safety

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the costs to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* operators of civil nuclear installations resulting from the implementation of the recommendations in the report on implications for the UK nuclear industry of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami by HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations. [85787]

Charles Hendry: Nuclear safety is a top priority and as such any associated costs to the Department will be borne out of the overall departmental budget.

The Government are not able to comment on any associated costs to the nuclear operating companies, as such costs are part of the overall and ongoing costs of ensuring the safe operation of nuclear facilities.

Renewable Energy: Wales

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had on renewable energy development in Wales. [86247]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has regular discussions with ministerial colleagues across the UK on renewable energy issues, including those in Wales.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's most recent estimate is of the cost of extending the eligibility date for the reduction in tariff level for solar PV from 12 December 2011 to 31 March 2012. [85780]

Gregory Barker: The impact assessment published alongside the consultation on feed-in tariffs for solar PV estimated the range of costs to consumers with a reference date of 12 December 2011 (option 2) and a reference date of 1 April 2012 (option 3). Under the central scenario we estimated that the additional costs associated with a reference date of 1 April would be approximately £60 million per year (2011 prices, discounted) over the spending review period.

We have undertaken an initial update of the estimates in the impact assessment to take account of higher than projected uptake in October 2011. Our preliminary update suggests that under the central scenario the additional costs associated with a 1 April reference date would be around £120-140 million per year (2011 prices, discounted) over the spending review period. These estimates should be treated as preliminary, as full updated estimates will be published in the final impact assessment supporting the Government's response to the consultation.

Warm Front Scheme

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* England, *(b)* each local authority area and *(c)* each parliamentary constituency received assistance under the Warm Front scheme (i) in each of the last 10 years, (ii) between July 2010 and December 2010 and (iii) since April 2011; and what the average level of grant provided under the scheme was in each such period. [86523]

Gregory Barker: This information is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households received assistance under the Warm Front scheme in England in each month of the last 10 years; and what the average level of grant provided under the scheme was in each such month. [86524]

Gregory Barker: I will be placing a copy of the information requested in the Libraries of the House.

Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the operation of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 since July 2010; and if he will make a statement. [R] [84458]

Gregory Barker: I discuss fuel poverty issues with ministerial colleagues on a regular basis.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his

Department have had with (i) HM Treasury and (ii) other ministerial colleagues on the operation of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [R] [84485]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* Ministerial colleagues, officials and I regularly meet with other Government Departments to discuss fuel poverty issues.

JUSTICE

Care Homes: Hampshire

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many care homes in *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* Southampton have been subject to (i) successful and (ii) unsuccessful prosecutions in the last two years. [86596]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database holds information on offences provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought but not all the circumstances of each case. It is not possible to identify from these centrally held data whether a care home was proceeded against or found guilty.

Chief Coroner: Public Appointments

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has contacted any potential candidates for the role of Chief Coroner. [86773]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has not contacted any potential candidates for the role of Chief Coroner. Under Schedule 8 to the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 it is for the Lord Chief Justice to appoint the Chief Coroner, following consultation with my right hon. and learned Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice.

Civil Disorder

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which courts dealt with cases concerning persons suspected of criminal involvement during the public disorder of August 2011. [86308]

Mr Djanogly: To date public disorder cases have been heard at 79 magistrates courts and 17 Crown courts, a list of which follows.

Courts that have heard cases related to the public disorder from 6-9 August 2011, data as at 7 December 2011.

Magistrates courts

Balham
Banbury
Barking
Basildon
Bexley
Birmingham
Brent
Brighton
Bristol
Bristol Youth Court
Bromley
Bury St Edmunds
Caernarfon
Camberwell Green
Cambridge
Cardiff
Cheltenham
City of Westminster
Colchester
Coventry
Crewe
Croydon
Ealing
East Lancashire Magistrates (Blackburn)
Enfield
Feltham
Greenwich
Grimsby
Halton
Haringey
Harlow
Harwich
Hatfield
Havering
Hemel Hempstead
Hendon
Hertford
High Wycombe
Highbury Corner
Lancaster
Leeds
Liverpool Community Justice centre
Liverpool
Luton
Macclesfield
Maidenhead
Maidstone
Manchester City
Medway
Milton Keynes
Nottingham
Oxford
Reading
Redbridge
Richmond
Salford
Slough
Solihull
South Western
Southampton
Southend
St Albans
Stevenage
Stratford
Stroud
Sunderland
Thames
Tower Bridge

Uxbridge
Vale Royal
Wakefield
Walsall
Waltham Forest
Warley
Welshpool
West London
Wimbledon
Wolverhampton
Wrexham

Crown court

Inner London CC
Wood Green CC
Manchester CC
Birmingham CC
Wolverhampton CC
Nottingham CC
Caernarfon CC
Newcastle CC
Preston CC
Reading CC
Chester CC
Mold CC
St Albans CC
Coventry CC
Colchester CC
Great Grimsby CC
Cardiff CC

Note:

This list has been compiled from manual returns from the courts as reported to Justice Statistics Analytical Service.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the costs to the courts of processing cases concerning people involved in the public disorder of August 2011. [86309]

Mr Djanogly: These cases have been mainly accommodated within the normal sittings of the magistrates and Crown courts with extra cost primarily attributed to the operating of some 24 hour courts in the first days of the disorder and having other courts on stand-by at the time of the public disorder. The most recent assessment of this marginal cost to Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service is £100,000.

We are not able to assign an accurate cost to processing these cases as cases are still progressing through the courts and there are likely to be large differences in costs of individual cases in terms of numbers and lengths of hearings. For example there may be one where a guilty plea was entered and the offender sentenced at the first hearing in the magistrates court or a case that proceeds to trial before a jury in the Crown court.

County Courts

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he had expected to publish the Government's response to the consultation on solving disputes in the county courts; for what reasons publication of the Government's response has been delayed; and when he expects to publish the Government's response. [86727]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer given on 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 190W. The Government expect the consultation response to be published in the new year. The response was initially scheduled for publication in October but this was postponed due to ongoing discussions within Government.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations his Department had discussions with on the consultation on solving disputes in the county courts *(a)* before and *(b)* after the consultation closed; and how many submissions to the consultation were received. [86728]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer given on 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 190W. The Department received 319 responses to the consultation. The Department has engaged in discussions with the following organisations during the course of this year:

Association of British Insurers
Civil Mediation Council
Forum of Insurance Lawyers
Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
Motor Accident Solicitors Society
The Law Society
The British Bankers Association
Citizens Advice
Her Majesties' Association of District Judges
R3 (Association of Business Recovery Professionals)
Civil Courts Users Association
Office of Fair Trade
Shergroup
The Land Registry
Centre for Peaceful Solutions & Brent Mediation Centre
Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution
Law Works Mediation
National Health Service Litigation Authority
Medical Protection Society
Weightmans Solicitors

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any senior staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85074]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice uses external resources in order to meet skills, capacity and capability shortages. Contractors and interims can be deployed in temporary senior management positions when it has been established that there is no suitable internal resource available. When doing so the Ministry ensures that it receives value for money and complies with procurement legislation, HM Treasury's rules and Cabinet Office Efficiency and Reform Group (ERG) requirements.

The process for procurement of contractors and interims is via a single managed service provider, Capita Resourcing Limited. Payments are made to this service provider. All resource requests are raised directly with Capita via their online recruitment system called 'TalentLink'. Capita then act as the single point of contact for the end to end process for handling the contractor procurement. In addition, Capita manage all contractual and second tier supplier relationships, thus achieving cost savings and time-efficiencies.

Within the Ministry of Justice there are four senior managers (senior civil servants) engaged on an interim basis through Capita. Within its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies, there is currently one senior manager engaged on an interim basis through Capita.

Market Testing Evaluation Panels

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his policy is on the level of profit margin market testing evaluation panels in his Department should allow for private bidders; [86515]

(2) whether his Department's market testing evaluation panels seek information on the profit margins anticipated by private bidders. [86516]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: In running offender services competitions, evaluation panels seek to ensure that bids from potential providers from all sectors will deliver the standards of safety, decency and security set out in the relevant NOMS specifications for that service. Panels also evaluate the cost effectiveness and operational viability of bids in order to ensure that the desired outcomes can be delivered. Bidders were requested for profit as a percentage of their total operating cost for the purposes of the Prisons Competition phase I awarded in March 2010.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to answer the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 26 October 2011 with regard to Mrs M Fallows. [85148]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have now replied.

Personal Injury

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the round table consultation meeting on matters relating to personal injury was postponed; and when he expects the round table to be held. [86711]

Mr Djanogly: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer given on 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 194W. The roundtable discussion was postponed as the publication of the Government's response to 'Solving Disputes in the County Courts' has been delayed. The meeting will be rescheduled for the new year once the consultation response has been published.

Prisoners' Transfers

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which companies hold contracts with *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Offender Management Service for escorting prisoners; and how much each such company has received from his Department in each of the last three years. [86602]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: All the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) requirements for escorting prisoners are now delivered through the Prison Escort and Custody Services (PECS) contracts.

The latest PECS contracts were awarded in March 2011 by the MoJ to Serco Wincanton and GEOAmey PECS Ltd. Prior to 29 August 2011 NOMS did receive a separate Inter Prison Transfer (IPT) service which was provided nationally by G4S Care and Justice as well. As part of the improvements and efficiencies introduced by the latest PECS contracts IPT was integrated in to a single PECS service requirement. Consequently, the following data include reference to both PECS and IPT.

All the financial information requested is provided in the following table, with the new PECS contracts is shown separately, and is based on the MoJ financial year which runs from April to March each year.

Financial year	*Service period*	*Service*	*Company*	*Contract spend (£)*
2011-12	29 August 2011 to 30 November 2011	PECS (new)	GEOAmey PECS Ltd	27,925,624
2011-12	29 August 2011 to 30 November 2011	PECS (new)	Serco Wincanton	7,485,730
2011-12	1 April 2011 to 28 August 2011	PECS	Serco	20,366,242
2011-12	1 April 2011 to 28 August 2011	IPT and PECS	G4S (inc. IPT)	31,098,423
2011-12	1 April 2011 to 28 August 2011	PECS	Reliance	15,804,567
2010-11	1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011	PECS	Serco	49,720,339
2010-11	1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011	IPT and PECS	G4S (inc. IPT)	74,947,549
2010-11	1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011	PECS	Reliance	38,800,074
2009-10	1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010	PECS	Serco	48,527,479
2009-10	1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010	IPT and PECS	G4S (inc. IPT)	74,126,719
2009-10	1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010	PECS	Reliance	38,758,920
2008-09	1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	PECS	Serco	45,774,178
2008-09	1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	IPT and PECS	G4S (inc. IPT)	72,528,513
2008-09	1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	PECS	Reliance	39,936,130

Prisons: Public Sector

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the public sector bid to operate HM Prison Featherstone 2 was unsuccessful. [86289]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The winning bidder (G4S Care and Justice Services (UK) Limited) submitted a more economically advantageous bid overall than the bid submitted by the public sector. In particular, the winning

bidder scored higher overall in relation to non-price criteria, and submitted a lower priced bid over the duration of the contract.

Probation

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that his forthcoming proposals for reform of the probation service do not place the public at risk. [86623]

Mr Blunt: The first stage of our work to look at the future shape of probation services in England and Wales is nearing completion. Throughout our work safeguarding public protection has been one of the key criteria when considering any possible reforms.

We expect to announce our emerging findings early in the new year and will then consult widely.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the potential cost to the public purse of the introduction of a six day week for HM Courts and Tribunals Service to hear appeals on decisions of the work capability assessment. [86847]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) hears appeals against Department for Work and Pensions decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) (decisions in which the work capability assessment is a key factor) rather than appeals against work capability assessment decisions themselves.

Saturday sittings are one of a number of measures taken to increase the capacity of the Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) Tribunal in response to the significant and unforecast increase in appeals. Appellants are asked whether they are willing to attend a hearing on a Saturday before their case is listed and the hearing will proceed exactly as it would on a weekday.

Saturday sittings hear a mixture of case types which prevents analysis specifically for ESA cases. The use of Saturday sittings is at the discretion of local managers and judiciary and therefore a specific budget has not been set aside for it. Between April and October 2011 379 sessions were held on a Saturday, which disposed of 1,848 cases. Based on the average cost of an SSCS appeal in 2010-11 of £239 the estimated total cost of these sittings is £0.4 million, although the actual cost of an appeal may be slightly higher on a Saturday as some administrative staff involved will receive overtime payments.

Total disposals by the SSCS Tribunal in the period between April and October 2011 were 21% up on the same period in 2010, and 66% higher than in the same seven months in 2009. In each of the last 12 months more ESA appeals have been disposed of than were received.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to provide a substantive reply to Question 84642 tabled on 29 November 2011 for named day answer on 5 December 2011. [86706]

Mr Djanogly: I have now replied to the hon. Member's question.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the backlog of cases in the UK Border Agency, broken down by case type and the number of cases in each category. [79780]

Damian Green: The current number of work in progress cases in the UK Border Agency is shown as follows:

	Number
Temporary Migration[1, 5, 6]	42,800
Permanent Migration[1, 5, 6]	53,000
Asylum[2, 5]	37,900
Other[3, 4, 5, 6]	16,400

The number of applications over the last six months were:

	Number
Temporary Migration[5, 6]	105,700
Permanent Migration[5, 6]	147,300
Asylum[5, 7]	9,900

[1] Figures were produced on 4 November 2011.
[2] Asylum cases also known as the asylum WiP was published on the HM Government website in August 2011
http://data.gov.uk/dataset/asylum-performance-framework
[3] Figures were produced on 7 November 2011.
[4] Includes cases from case assurance and audit unit (CAAU).
[5] All figures rounded to the nearest hundred.
[6] With the exception of Asylum all figures quoted are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks.
[7] Asylum application figures are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks.

No 'Other' cases were received within the last six months.

Civil Disorder

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many claims for compensation under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 arising from the civil disorder of August 2011 have been settled in each borough in Greater London; and what the total amount of compensation was in each case, at the latest date for which figures are available. [85573]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold the detail on the number or value of claims made specifically by individual boroughs of the Metropolitan Police Service.

Closed Circuit Television

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from police authorities on the decision by some local authorities to cease or reduce funding for the operation of CCTV; and what assessment her Department has made of any potential effect on the prevention and detection of crime. [86222]

James Brokenshire: No such representations have been received. The provision and deployment of CCTV by local authorities is a matter for them to assess in the light of local need and resources available.

Criminal Investigations: Care Homes

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many care homes in *(a)* Hampshire and *(b)* Southampton have been subject to police investigations in the last two years. [86597]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were employed in the Liverpool offices of the *(a)* Criminal Records Bureau, *(b)* Identity and Passport Service and *(c)* United Kingdom Border Agency in 2010; and how many such people she expect to employ in 2015. [83709]

Damian Green: Table 1 following includes workforce figures for 2010 (as at 31 December 2010) using Office for National Statistics guidelines for workforce management reporting.

Table 1: People employed in Liverpool on 31 December 2010

Department	*HC FTE*	*HC*
Criminal Records Bureau	605.13	648
Identity and Passport Service	363.57	398
United Kingdom Border Agency	1,710.88	1,853
Grand total	2,679.57	2,899

Note:
Includes all permanent and paid civil servants as per ONS reporting guidelines.
Extract Date:
31 December 2010
Source:
Data View, the Home Office's single source of monthly Human Resources data.

Home Office workforce plans are designed to be flexible to best support evolving business priorities throughout the spending review period and to be affordable within the Home Office's spending review settlement. It is not possible to forecast the number of people who will be employed in Liverpool in Criminal Records Bureau, Identity and Passport Service and United Kingdom Border Agency in 2015, as this falls into the next spending review period and workforce plans have not yet been drawn-up.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at how many events organised by *(a)* charities, *(b)* other civil society groups, *(c)* businesses and *(d)* lobbying organisations Ministers and senior officials in her Department have given speeches in each month since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77342]

Damian Green: This information is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Detainees: Children

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under 16 years are being held in detention for immigration purposes; and how many were being held in *(a)* May 2011, *(b)* January 2011 and *(c)* June 2010. [77052]

Damian Green: The latest published management information for the number of children under 16 years of age entering detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers in immigration removal centres, short term holding facilities and pre-departure accommodation at Cedars is six in October 2011; seven in May 2011; two in January 2011 and 26 in June 2010.

This information is a subset of published data that correspond closest to the dates requested. These figures exclude those detained in police cells, Prison Service establishments and short-term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants. They may include age disputed cases. Cedars pre-departure accommodation for families opened on 17 August 2011.

Information on numbers of children entering detention is published monthly and is available from the Home Office Science, Research and Statistics web pages at:

http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

A copy of the latest month has been placed in the Library of the House. November 2011 figures will be available on 29 December 2011.

Information on children detained under immigration Act powers, on any single day, is only published for the last day of each quarter. This information is available from the same web site and from the Library of the House. Figures for those detained on 30 September 2011 have been published on 24 November 2011.

Drugs Testing

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on mandatory drugs testing for its staff. [86618]

Damian Green: The Home Office does not have mandatory drug testing arrangements in place for its staff.

Extradition: Russia

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has any plans to review the operation of extradition arrangements between the UK and Russia. [86550]

Damian Green: The UK keeps its extradition relations with other countries under constant review. As the UK and Russia are both members of the Council of Europe, extradition between our two countries is governed by the 1957 Council of Europe Convention on Extradition. There are currently no plans to review this Convention.

Forensic Science

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she considers crime scene investigators to be front line staff. [86181]

Nick Herbert: In its report Demanding Times, published in March 2011, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) defined and categorised police roles. The report can be found at:

www.hmic.gov.uk

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to safeguard the services provided by crime scene investigators; and if she will make a statement. [86182]

Damian Green: Decisions about the deployment of police resources, including crime scene investigators, are a matter for chief constables to take locally in conjunction with their police authority and, from November 2012, their police and crime commissioner.

Human Trafficking Ministerial Group

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what dates the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on human trafficking has met since May 2010; who its members are; and which members attended each such meeting. [86446]

Damian Green: The Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on human trafficking met on 17 February 2011 and 11 October 2011. A list of members and attendees for each meeting is provided in the following list:

Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group (IDMG) on human trafficking—ministerial-level meeting attendees and non-attending members

17 February 2011 meeting:

Attendees:

Damian Green MP, Minister for Immigration (Chair)

Lynne Featherstone MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities and Criminal Information

Edward Garnier MP, Solicitor General

Crispin Blunt MP, Minister for Justice

Kenny MacAskill MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Scottish Government (by video link)

Apologies:

Anne Milton MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health[1]

Jeremy Browne MP, Minister of State, FCO[1]

Tim Loughton MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

Baroness Hanham, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities

Baroness Wilcox, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for BIS

Lord Freud, Minister for Welfare Reform

David Ford MLA, Northern Ireland Executive[1]

Gwenda Thomas AM, Welsh Assembly Government

Stephen O'Brien, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development[1]

11 October 2011 meeting

Attendees:

Damian Green MP, Minister for Immigration (Chair)

Lord Wallace of Tankerness, Advocate General for Scotland (representing Ministry of Justice)

Baroness Hanham, Department of Communities and Local Government

Jeremy Browne, FCO

David Jones, Wales Office

Stephen O'Brien, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development

Apologies:

Edward Garnier, Solicitor General[1]

Tim Loughton, Department for Education[1]

Crispin Blunt, Ministry of Justice

Anne Milton MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health

Michael Moore, Scotland Office

Baroness Wilcox, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for BIS

Lord Freud, Department for Work and Pensions

Kenny MacAskill MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Scottish Government[1]

David Ford MLA, Northern Ireland Executive[1]

Carl Sargeant, Welsh Assembly Government[1]

Lynne Featherstone, Government Equalities Office (GEO)

[1] Indicates official-level deputies present at the meeting

Immigrants: Citizenship

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigrants to the UK have successfully applied for UK citizenship in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [86561]

Damian Green: The available statistics are given in the following table. It is not possible to identify separately grants of British citizenship made to migrants as opposed to those that are UK born within the published data.

The number of applications for and grants of British citizenship has risen significantly since the mid-1990s. This increase is likely, in part, to reflect increased grants of settlement over the same period to non-European economic area nationals—after a period of residence those granted settlement become eligible to apply for citizenship.

The latest Home Office immigration statistics on persons granted British citizenship, from which the data in this reply are derived, are given in table 'cz.02' of the statistical release 'Immigration Statistics July-September 2011'. This publication is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science web site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q3-2011/

British citizenship grants by general category

	All grants	*Naturalisation based on residence*	*Naturalisation based on marriage*	*Registration of minor children related to a British citizen on a discretionary basis*	*Registration on other grounds*
2001	90,282	39,498	28,618	21,239	927
2002	120,121	57,595	34,414	26,319	1,793
2003	130,535	54,967	36,757	35,344	3,467
2004	148,273	64,103	40,406	38,415	5,349
2005	161,699	77,334	34,496	41,641	8,228
2006	154,018	77,080	27,587	42,447	6,904
2007	164,637	87,785	30,423	40,534	5,895
2008	129,377	65,713	29,075	30,832	3,757
2009	203,789	99,474	52,627	47,814	3,874
2010	195,046	93,681	47,028	48,611	5,726

Notes:
1. Data for 2010 are provisional figures.
2. Data presented relate to number of persons. Cases dealt with in the United Kingdom.
3. Grants: A positive outcome of an application for British citizenship prior to attending a citizenship ceremony by applicants over 18 years of age.
4. 'Decisions taken to grant' from November 2001 include grants of British citizenship in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man.
5. Marriage includes civil partnership introduced from 5 December 2005.
6. Minor children: children under 18 years of age.
7. Other includes British Overseas Territories citizens from Gibraltar registered as British citizens under s.5 of the British Nationality Act 1981.

Source:
Home Office, Migration Statistics.

Immigrants: Detainees

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the detention data tables Immigration Statistics April-June 2011 table dt.07.q, whether any of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24 months (1) is appealing against *(a)* their detention and *(b)* their removal from the UK on human rights grounds; [82104]

(2) has an appeal case against their *(a)* detention and *(b)* removal from the UK lodged with (i) a domestic court and (ii) the European Court of Human Rights. [82105]

Damian Green: The following table sets out the total length of stay in the UK of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24 months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April to June 2011.

Length of time (in years) in the UK based on first application raised	*Number of individuals*
3	7
4	7
5	13
6	5
7	6
8	10
9	7
10	4
11	5
12	3
13	1
14	1
15	1
17	2
18	1
20	1

The following table sets out the reasons why the 74 individuals detained for more than 24 months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April to June 2011 had not been removed from the UK. As the table shows, five of the individuals have now been removed from the UK. This information is taken from internal management information and is subject to change.

Barriers to removal	*Number of individuals*
Travel document	39
Appeals	6
Children issues	1
Country situation	1
Nationality not confirmed	1
Judicial review	15
Awaiting removal: multiple barriers	4
Rule 39[1]	2
Removed	5

[1] This is a request to the European court of human rights (under rule 39) that an applicant should not be removed from the UK.

Of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24 months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April to June 2011, 53 lodged an appeal against their deportation. In addition to this:

29 individuals submitted a judicial review (JR) against unlawful detention.

five submitted a JR on HR grounds.

five submitted a JR against unlawful detention and on HR grounds.

To determine in which court those of the 74 individuals detained for more than 24 months referred to in the Immigration Statistics April to June 2011 have lodged an appeal against detention or removal would require the examination of individual case files which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Immigration Controls

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people she expected to enter the UK through ports operating the pilot scheme of reduced checks at border control points during the pilot scheme. [81094]

Damian Green: There were 20.2 million passenger arrivals to the United Kingdom during the first quarter (January to March) of 2011 of which 2.4 million were non-EEA nationals, 11.2 million were British citizens and 6.5 million were from other EEA countries and Switzerland. These figures are numbers of journeys and include passengers in transit who do not pass through immigration controls.

Further information relating to the second quarter (April to June) of 2011 was published on 24 November 2011 in the Home Office Science publication, 'Immigration Statistics July to September 2011', and the third quarter will be published on 23 February 2012. These data will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reform the sponsorship rules for family migration. [84816]

Damian Green: The family migration consultation closed on 6 October 2011. It proposed new measures to tackle abuse, promote integration and reduce burdens on the taxpayer. The Government are considering the responses to the consultation and will publish their response in due course.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which border control checks were suspended on *(a)* 30 June 2011 and *(b)* 30 November 2011; whether those suspensions had ministerial approval; and when any such approval was given. [86088]

Damian Green: In advance of industrial action on 30 June and 30 November an operating protocol was authorised by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department. The protocol ensured that appropriate immigration and customs checks were conducted on all passengers arriving at UK ports and airports during the period of industrial action.

Immigration Controls: Cyclamen Machines

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* ports and *(b)* airports did not operate cyclamen machines on 30 November 2011. [86089]

Damian Green: Cyclamen remained operational on 30 November 2011 at all ports and airports where fixed equipment is installed. Screening was undertaken following standard operating procedures.

Members: Correspondence

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letters from the right hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling dated 26 January, 17 May and 8 July 2011 regarding correspondence received from Mr F. G. Thurygill. [86372]

James Brokenshire: A response was sent on 15 December 2011.

Police

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have opted to use *(a)* trauma risk management and *(b)* applied suicide intervention skills training; and if she will make a statement. [86459]

Nick Herbert: This information is not held centrally.

Police: Accountability

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of introducing police commissioners in Wales; and how much of such costs is attributable to *(a)* commissioners' pay, *(b)* staffing costs and *(c)* other costs. [85994]

Nick Herbert: I have previously laid before Parliament the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body in respect of the salaries for police and crime commissioners (PCCs), including the PCCs of the four Welsh forces; my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department and I are currently considering these recommendations and will provide our response to the report in the near future. Once elected it will be for each PCC to determine the cost of their staff and publicly account for all costs of their office. The total estimated day-to-day costs of PCCs in Wales are not expected to be any higher than the current costs of police authorities in the area.

Union of Good

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the US Government on the Union of Good; and if she will make a statement. [86592]

James Brokenshire: Home Office Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of international partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Windsor Review of Police Officers

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* representations she has received and *(b)* discussions she has had with the

Police Federation of England and Wales on the Windsor Review of Police Officers' and Staff Remuneration and Conditions; and if she will make a statement. [86650]

Nick Herbert: The Independent Review of Police Officer and Staff Remuneration and Conditions is in two parts. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department referred recommendations about police officers' pay and conditions from part 1 of the review to the police negotiating machinery and that process is ongoing. We will consider the outcome of that process carefully before any decisions are made as to the implementation of Tom Winsor's recommendations. Part 2 of the review is due to report in January.

Ministers meet and engage regularly with the Police Federation.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 19 December 2011

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Japan Tobacco International

Mr Hain: To ask the Leader of the House whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers of his Office have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87603]

Sir George Young: Information about hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers is published quarterly by Departments. Information for the period 13 May 2010 to 30 June 2011 can be accessed on departmental websites. Information for 1 July onwards will be published in due course on the Cabinet Office website at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

and

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cabinet-office-permanent-secretaries%E2%80%99-meetings-external-organisations

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what estimate the Electoral Commission has made of the number of people not registered to vote in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* the most recent period for which figures are available. [86951]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it estimates that at least 6 million people were not registered on Great Britain's December 2010 electoral registers.

The most recent estimate of the number of people not registered in Great Britain is 8.5 million, which is based on the April 2011 electoral registers.

These estimates are set out in the Commission's December 2011 report, 'Great Britain's electoral registers 2011', available in the House of Commons Library or at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [86990]

Mr Paterson: From December 2010 to November 2011, my Department has spent £125,648 on food purchased by its food and catering service.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency: Wales

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason her Department has not undertaken a *(a)* public consultation and *(b)* impact assessment on the proposed closure of the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency regional laboratories in Wales. [85967]

Mr Paice: No AHVLA sites will be closed.

The rationale was based on value for money. No impact assessment or wider consultation took place as this was an internal AHVLA review of operational delivery services which does not require policy or regulatory change. The proposal does not significantly change the nature of service delivery but does contribute to the need to generate the £2.4 million of associated savings as soon as possible.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account she took of the density of animal stock in Wales in taking the decision to close the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency regional laboratories in Wales. [85968]

Mr Paice: No AHVLA Laboratory sites will be closed in Wales as a result of the rationalisation of laboratory services.

The decision to cease the delivery of laboratory services at the Welsh delivery sites was taken on the basis that fewer than 2% of tests for England and Wales were carried out in these laboratories and it was important to ensure that the national laboratory network was as well set up as possible to deliver high quality services in a value for money way all over England and Wales. Criteria that were taken into account included:

- the need to retain the necessary capabilities within the workforce across the network, in particular specialist scientific and technical skills;
- the need to retain sufficient staff capacity nationally to deliver the volumes of work required;
- consideration of the facilities required to maintain services required, e.g. specialist laboratory infrastructure;
- the need to reduce the number of sites at which the department operates in order to increase efficiency and reduce management and other overheads (equipment replacement and maintenance, quality and health and safety audits etc);
- the need to retain resilience of service delivery, e.g. Containment Level 3 (CL3) laboratory capacity.

Because laboratory testing can be carried out at any site, and does not require to be carried out at the same site as post mortem activity, density of animal stock is not a significant consideration in deciding on the sites of laboratories.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure that laboratory testing will be completed in 24 hours following the closure of the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency regional laboratories in Wales. [85969]

Mr Paice: Laboratory testing has never been guaranteed to be completed within 24 hours. The AHVLA publishes approximate turnaround times on its website. These are given in working days and are for guidance only. Although very dependent on the test in question, the minimum published turnaround time is two working days but for the majority of tests it is greater than this. These turnaround times will not change.

Following the rationalisation of the Laboratory Services department, AHVLA will still retain capacity at the site of the post-mortem examination to carry out tests that are considered to be essential by our veterinary experts, e.g. for anthrax and TB, and these will be reported urgently.

At present no AHVLA laboratory operates on weekends or bank holidays. This will actually improve as a result of the rationalisation to allow weekend working to improve turnaround times for samples received over this period.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure that samples taken for laboratory testing do not deteriorate over time and adversely affect results following the closure of the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency regional laboratories in Wales. [85970]

Mr Paice: Samples taken for laboratory testing have always relied on remote laboratory testing arising from post mortems, with no perceived impact on test quality. Studies are now being undertaken to ensure this continues to be the case when the changes are implemented across the wider network. Initial findings indicate that there is no deterioration, but work continues on this and mitigations put in place to limit any possible negative impact.

AHVLA laboratories are accredited under ISO 17025 and there is a very strong protocol in place to ensure test quality is safeguarded.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason her Department did not inform the Wales Office of its decision to close the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency regional laboratories in Wales. [85971]

Mr Paice: Animal Health and Welfare is a devolved matter in Wales and as such the Wales Office was not informed of the decision to de-couple laboratory services from surveillance and post-mortem testing at both sites in Wales.

The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) for Wales was briefed on the decision and formally written to, as is protocol in these cases. I would have informed Welsh Assembly Ministers if required. In this instance the CVO for Wales did not inform Welsh Ministers as the decision was regarded as an operational matter for AHVLA.

Slaughterhouses

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with animal welfare organisations on breaches of the law in slaughterhouses; and if she will make a statement. [80879]

Mr Paice: I met representatives of the slaughter industry, the British Veterinary Association, the Humane Slaughter Association, the Veterinary Public Health Association and the Food Standards Agency to discuss welfare in slaughterhouses earlier this year. We have arranged a follow up meeting with industry representation to address ongoing concerns about poor welfare standards in some slaughterhouses and how we can work together to address this issue.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of bovine tuberculosis have been recorded in each month since the introduction of the Sam computer system. [83568]

Mr Paice: The implementation of Sam release 6, which captures TB data, was at the end of September 2011. The latest TB statistics available are to the end of August 2011 and are published on DEFRA's website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/cattletb/

As soon as it is available, information for September and October 2011 will also be published on DEFRA's website.

Cattle: Animal Welfare

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many trained inspectors able to investigate allegations of acts of cruelty to cattle, and cattle being kept in conditions which neglect their welfare, there were in each region of England and Wales in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12 to date; and if she will make a statement. [82595]

Mr Paice: Currently, there are 240 veterinary officers and veterinary inspectors who are appointed under the relevant legislation.

This figure relates only to veterinary staff who would investigate any allegations of acts of cruelty to cattle and cattle being kept in conditions which neglect their welfare.

There are no figures for previous years or months as the Identity Card database is only there to inform who currently holds an ID card. When staff leave, they are deleted from the database.

However, it should be noted that the number of staff currently appointed under the relevant legislation is far greater than 240 and includes animal health officers, dairy hygiene inspectors, RSPCA and local authority staff etc. While these officers may be aware of cases of cruelty and neglect, they themselves would not investigate such cases; instead, they would pass them on to the veterinary officers and veterinary inspectors to action.

Cattle: Transport

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the new Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency cattle movement computer system to be fully functional. [83161]

Mr Paice: Significant improvements are being made to the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency IT system, called Sam, every week. It is expected that the system will be functioning normally by mid-December.

Dangerous Dogs

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the merits of bringing forward proposals to amend the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 to hold a dog owner criminally responsible where a dog is found to be dangerously out of control in any place. [86688]

Mr Paice: My noble Friend Lord Taylor, who leads on the subject of dangerous dogs in DEFRA, has been working alongside Lord Henley to see how the proposed antisocial measures currently being developed in the Home Office can be best applied to such behaviour relating to dogs. DEFRA has also been developing proposals on reducing dog attacks and promoting more responsible dog ownership. This is now at an advanced stage and we expect to be able to make an announcement early in the new year.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible are taking to ensure that they meet the Government's buying standards for food and catering. [83724]

Mr Paice: The Government Buying Standards for Food provide for the first time minimum standards for food and catering services across central Government. They were not yet published at the time of the competition for DEFRA's catering contract. However, it was made clear in the tendering specification that when established and as amended from time to time, the successful caterer will be required to comply with the Government buying standards. The current contract and therefore this condition applies to the whole of the DEFRA estate and we are determined to ensure that they are met in full.

In addition officials are taking action to encourage these standards to be adopted as a minimum across the public sector and this will include all agencies and arm's length bodies with which DEFRA is engaged. Performance reporting will include all aspects of both mandatory and best practice elements of the standards.

Departmental Travel

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on first class travel by *(a)* air, *(b)* boat and *(c)* train since May 2010. [75530]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows payments for first class travel (excluding upgrades) for the period since May 2010 and the same preceding period May 2009/

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs—core DEFRA only

£

	May 2009 to September 2010	*May 2010 to September 2011*
Air	17,708	3,467
Rail	747,091	100,656

We have no record of any first class boat travel.

Detergents: Environment Protection

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department holds information on damage caused to the environment by chemicals used in domestic detergents. [86750]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has undertaken several projects aimed at understanding the impact on the environment of chemicals contained in domestic detergents. Research indicated that the principal chemical which has the potential for detrimental impact on the environment is phosphorus, which in high levels can lead to eutrophication, reducing oxygen levels in the aquatic system.

In 2007, DEFRA commissioned an impact assessment to understand the contribution of phosphorus to water bodies failing to meet good ecological status, as defined within the water framework directive. The study showed that domestic detergents accounted for 5% of the phosphorus levels found in water courses.

Based on this evidence a ban was proposed on levels of phosphorus in domestic detergents greater than 0.4%, under the UK Detergents Regulations 2010, SI 740.

This ban is due to come into force in 2015. However, the European Parliament is currently proposing a ban on phosphorus levels which, if passed, will bring the UK's timetable forward to 2013. Also, under this proposal, the European Parliament is pursuing an extension to the ban that prohibits the inclusion of phosphorus in automatic dishwasher detergent. It aims for this to come into force in 2017.

Eggs: EU Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the EU Egg Marketing regulations to be amended. [87217]

Mr Paice: We will continue to press in Europe to have the relevant EU legislation amended to enable a good enforcement strategy that helps prevent the marketing of eggs when they come from hens reared in conventional cages.

In the meantime we have taken steps to establish as much compliance as is possible with the conventional cage ban. A number of retailers, egg processors, food manufacturers and the food service industry are working to ensure that they have stringent traceability tests in place so that they can guarantee they are not sourcing conventional eggs from caged hens from either the UK or other member states. The industry has risen to the challenge and come out in support of producers who have stopped using conventional cages, reducing the risk of conventional cage eggs and egg products being

marketed in the UK. My written statement to the House of 6 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 15-19WS, includes a list of companies able to make this pledge and we will keep this list up to date.

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had on the future of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. [85192]

Mr Paice: Pursuing the twin objectives of a competitive farming sector that plays a full part in protecting and improving the environment is a priority for this Government and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) epitomised that dual purpose.

The Farming Regulation Task Force identified the importance of ensuring that the environmental messages we give to farmers and their advisors are clear and well-prioritised. In the Natural Environment White Paper we have committed to undertake a review of advice and incentives for farmers. In taking this work forward we are very conscious of the role of independent environmental and conservation advice providers, such as the FWAG.

Officials from DEFRA and Natural England have been in close contact with FWAG over recent weeks to establish the facts of the unfolding situation and to understand the implications.

FWAG played an important role in the delivery of advice for a number of Government initiatives, including helping farmers to participate in agri-environment schemes and the Campaign for the Farmed Environment. The need for this work will continue and independent advice delivered by organisations like the FWAG will continue to play a key role in supporting and developing British farming. While it is very saddening to see the closure of the FWAG it is heartening to see that, in a number of regions, there are already efforts afoot to create successor organisations to deliver advice.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* transaction date, *(b)* supplier and *(c)* amount was of each transaction made on a Government procurement card held by the private office of the Secretary of State in her Department between 28 June 2007 and 11 May 2010. [82152]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA introduced an improved GPC transaction processing system in the summer of 2009. Data from 1 May 2009 to 11 May 2010 will be placed in the House of Commons library.

To identify data prior to May 2009 would incur disproportionate cost.

Hazardous Substances: International Co-operation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has given support to Safe Planet: the UN Campaign for Responsibility on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes. [86486]

Richard Benyon: My Department has not given any direct support to the UN Safe Planet Campaign, but we strongly support the work and aims of the three UN conventions that form part of the campaign and underpin its work, namely the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

Livestock: Exports

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to tackle the live export of horses for slaughter; and if she will make a statement. [85568]

Mr Paice: We will continue to push the EU Commission for a review of the rules on long journey transportation of all animals, including horses. In the interim, we will also be playing a full part in the work which the EU Commission believes will ensure better enforcement of the existing transportation rules, as outlined in the EU Commission's recent report on the impact of Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005, concerning the protection of animals during transport.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the costs to the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency were of inspecting live animal export shipments from UK ports *(a)* in each year from 1997 to 2010 and *(b)* in 2011 to date. [86497]

Mr Paice: The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency does not record this information.

Livestock: Transport

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to review rules on animal movements. [85790]

Mr Paice: The independent Farming Regulation Task Force made recommendations for changes to the livestock movements' regime. We have implemented some of the recommended changes already. Others require more evidence and detailed risk-assessment before we can make informed, risk-based decisions about whether they can be accepted as proposed. The initial response to the Task Force recommendations, published on 3 November, provided an overview of progress. We will provide our final response early in 2012.

Oil: Exploration

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the *(a)* Department for Transport and *(b)* European Commission on the environmental effects of extracting oil from tar sands. [82215]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has been involved in reaching a collective Government position on the UK's negotiating position for EU discussions on oil sands in the context of the fuel quality directive.

As the Department for Transport leads on the issue in Government, DEFRA has not had any direct discussions with the European Commission on the matter.

Plastic Bags

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has any plans to bring forward legislative proposals to establish a producer responsibility regime for plastic carrier bags. [86487]

Richard Benyon: We are currently exploring a range of options, including legislation, and hope to bring forward a proposal next year.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made an assessment of the effectiveness and consequences of recent legislation in Italy banning plastic carrier bags and its implications for UK waste policy. [86488]

Richard Benyon: No assessment of the Italian legislation has been made. We are currently waiting for the European Commission to express views on whether such an outright ban is contrary to the single market provisions in the EU Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste (94/62/EC), which guarantee access to markets.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made an assessment of the risk of infraction proceedings being brought against the Government by the European Commission should it decide to proceed with a unilateral ban on shell and processed eggs from non-enriched hen cages. [87189]

Mr Paice: At the October Agriculture Council, the Commission ruled out the option of an intra-Community trade ban, and gave strong warnings to member states seeking to introduce a unilateral ban.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the cost to *(a)* manufacturers, *(b)* food processors and *(c)* retailers of policing the illegal import of non-compliant eggs under the EU directive on welfare of laying hens. [87218]

Mr Paice: No such assessment has been made by DEFRA. It is the role of the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency to enforce the marketing rules in relation to shell eggs.

Rural and Farming Network

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the Rural and Farming Network to be operational. [86334]

Mr Paice: Many of the groups that offered to be members of the Rural and Farming Network are already established and operating. We aim to have announced membership of the new network before Christmas with a view to the first meeting of RFN chairs and DEFRA Ministers taking place in the new year.

Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria have been used to determine the decisions on the restructuring of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency; and what consultations took place prior to the decisions being taken. [85617]

Richard Benyon: The Veterinary Laboratories Agency and Animal Health merged in the face of significant reductions in budgets over the spending review period to create a more resilient agency with shared expertise in animal disease management.

The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) has to make savings of more than £8.5 million for the next four years to meet spending review allocations (cumulative £34 million). These savings are in line with savings to be made across DEFRA.

All aspects of delivery are being reviewed to ensure that services are delivered in the most cost-effective way possible. Current changes to laboratory service delivery are designed to enable cost savings of more than £2.4 million per annum.

The proposed changes are based on the outcomes of the 2010 DEFRA-led GB-wide review of surveillance (including laboratory testing and post mortem and other aspects) which identified that savings needed to be made in this area by thinking about changing models of delivery. This review involved contributions from professionals in the field around Great Britain.

A review of possible changes to the current model which could deliver a service at least as effective as the current one at significantly less cost was carried out earlier in 2011. The review recommended that laboratory testing could be carried out in locations other than those used to carry out post mortems. A representative of front line veterinary staff was involved in this work, as well as relevant experts in epidemiology and state veterinary medicine.

The effect of this decision—to decouple laboratory testing from post mortem work more widely—was to enable a review of laboratory testing to identify opportunities to materially reduce the costs and increase the efficiency of the function as quickly as possible, while protecting its efficacy as a scanning surveillance tool.

In 2006-07, the Laboratory Services Department (LSD) as a whole delivered 2.8 million tests of all types. By 2010-11, this number had fallen to less than 1 million, a reduction of 65% in test throughput as a result of changing requirements. During the same period, the number of staff in the LSD fell by 5% and pay costs increased by 6%.

The decision on where to retain laboratory services was based on a number of factors including:

the need to retain the necessary capabilities within the work force across the network, in particular specialist scientific and technical skills;

the need to retain sufficient staff capacity nationally to deliver the volumes of work required;

consideration of the facilities required to maintain services required, e.g. specialist laboratory infrastructure;

the need to reduce the number of sites at which the department operates, in order to increase efficiency and reduce management

and other overheads (equipment replacement and maintenance, quality and health and safety audits etc);

the need to retain resilience of service delivery, e.g. Containment Level 3 (CL3) laboratory capacity.

The fundamental criterion for the decision related to value for money. No wider consultation took place as this was an internal AHVLA review of operational delivery services, which does not significantly change the nature of industry service delivery.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the saving to the public purse from proposed restructuring of regional veterinary laboratories. [85619]

Richard Benyon: The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency announced plans to reorganise its regional laboratory structure to enable savings of approximately £2.4 million in staff costs per annum.

There will also be some modest non-pay savings of approximately £120,000 per annum, assuming there are no savings on consumables and reagents. These savings are mainly on equipment maintenance costs.

There may be additional cost savings as part of the estates rationalisation, but at this time, this has yet to be quantified.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in regional veterinary laboratories *(a)* have been offered and *(b)* have accepted relocation as a result of the restructuring of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency. [85622]

Richard Benyon: The redeployment and redundancy of staff in the regional veterinary laboratories is being handled in accordance with departmental policy. As part of this process, we are providing individuals with priority access to the roles we have available across the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (and the wider civil service). Where an individual is at risk of redundancy and they apply for a role that is in a different location, we will support their relocation financially if there is a good business and financial justification for doing so. As yet, we have not had any requests from staff in the regional laboratories to support their relocation financially.

All staff have been invited to state whether they would consider relocation as an option for redeployment purposes. Only five have stated that they would consider this option if it was available.

Water: Meters

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has undertaken any analysis of the effectiveness of water meters in reducing long-term levels of water consumption. [86952]

Richard Benyon: In 2009, Anna Walker published her Independent Review of Charging for Household Water and Sewerage Services, a copy of which is available on the DEFRA website.

The review reported that one of the main benefits of metering is that it incentivises more efficient use of water. The review team considered a range of evidence and concluded the best available studies indicate that when people pay for water according to volume used, total water consumption falls by approximately 10%.

Water: Prices

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the proportion of water-bill payers in *(a)* the South West and *(b)* other regions of the UK who spend more than five per cent. of their income on their water bills. [R] [86937]

Richard Benyon: In May 2011 Ofwat published 'Affordability and debt 2009-10: Current evidence', which can be found on the Ofwat website.

This document contains analysis of the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey, which are the most recent publically-available data on this issue. This analysis found that 16% of households in the south-west spend more than 5% of their disposable income on water and sewerage charges. Across England and Wales, 11% of households spend more than 5% of their disposable income on water and sewerage charges.

WaterSure: Finance

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was allocated to WaterSure in 2010-11; and how much she plans to allocate in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [86458]

Richard Benyon: WaterSure is not funded by Government and there is therefore no funding allocated via the comprehensive spending review. WaterSure is funded by cross-subsidy by other water customers at company level.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether he has invited hon. Members to *(a)* regional Cabinet meetings and *(b)* events related to such meetings taking place in or near their constituency; [86215]

(2) in which cities and towns he plans to hold regional Cabinet meetings in the next 12 months; [86216]

(3) what criteria were used to select the locations of regional Cabinet meetings since May 2010; [86217]

(4) in which locations regional Cabinet meetings have taken place since May 2010; and what the estimated cost to the Exchequer was of each such meeting. [86218]

The Prime Minister: Since May 2010, regional Cabinets have been held in the following locations:

Location		*Cost (£)*
Bradford	June 2010	3,000
Derby	March 2011	3,000

Location		Cost (£)
Cardiff	July 2011	1,850
Ipswich	December 2011	1,950

Departments and agencies will also have incurred costs in terms of travel, staff time and other support. The cost of any security provided by the police is a matter for the relevant police force. Regional Cabinets and associated visits allow Ministers to hear at first hand the views of people in different areas of the country. The location of future meetings will be announced in due course. There has been no change in the practice followed by the previous Administration for inviting hon. Members to meetings and related events.

Copyright

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister whether he discussed the issue of copyright infringement with his Chinese counterpart in June 2011; on what dates any such meetings took place; what issues were discussed; and what *(a)* internal and *(b)* external advice he received on the merits of holding any such meeting. [86780]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave during the press conference with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on 27 June 2011. A transcript of the press conference is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/speeches-and-transcripts/2011/06/press-conference-with-premier-wen-jiabao-65285

EU Action

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what discussions he has had with the devolved Administrations on *(a)* the potential use of the veto and *(b)* other matters relating to the European Council meeting of 8 and 9 December 2011 since the Joint Ministerial Committee held on 21 November 2011; [87220]

(2) what discussions he had on *(a)* the potential use of the veto and *(b)* other matters relating to the European Council meeting of 8 and 9 December 2011 at the Joint Ministerial Committee held on 21 November 2011. [87221]

Angus Robertson: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he had with the *(a)* Scottish Executive, *(b)* Welsh Government, *(c)* Northern Ireland Executive and *(d)* Mayor of London on use of a veto by the UK before the recent European Council. [87008]

Ann McKechin: To ask the Prime Minister (1) when he was most recently in contact with the First Minister of Scotland *(a)* orally and *(b)* in writing concerning (i) the operation of the Eurozone and (ii) the meeting of the European Council on 8 and 9 December 2011; [87146]

(2) what representations he received from the First Minister of Scotland prior to the meeting of the European Council on 8 and 9 December 2011. [87147]

The Prime Minister: International and EU issues are a matter reserved for the UK Government. We liaise through the Joint Ministerial Committee in the usual way. As usual, a Joint Ministerial sub-Committee on Europe was held before the December European Council. All devolved Administrations were given the opportunity to feed in their views.

Public Expenditure

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has for machinery of government changes up to 2015. [86954]

The Prime Minister: The machinery of government is kept under review.

SCOTLAND

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 month period for which information is available. [86989]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not have food and catering services.

Tugboats

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* meetings his Department has had with (i) the oil and gas industry, (ii) HM Coastguard and (iii) the Department for Transport on the future of the emergency towing vessel service after 31 December 2011; [87315]

(2) what steps he has taken to maintain the emergency towing vessels service after 31 December 2011. [87316]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has held numerous discussions and meetings with the oil and gas industry, HM Coastguard and the Department for Transport to examine long-term options for the emergency towing vessel service in waters around Scotland. We have also worked very closely with other interested parties including the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Scottish Government and local authorities.

The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), intends to make a statement to the House on this matter shortly.

Young People

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the operation of the Youth Contract in Scotland. [87051]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Michael Moore), and I are in contact with ministerial colleagues from the Department for Work and Pensions on a range of issues, including the Youth Contract.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many mothers in *(a)* Leicester South constituency, *(b)* Leicester and *(c)* England receive financial assistance from the Child Support Agency. [86471]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many mothers in (a) Leicester South constituency, (b) Leicester and (c) England receive financial assistance from the Child Support Agency. [86471]

The Commission does not provide, financial assistance directly. However the Child Support Agency (CSA) operates two existing statutory child maintenance schemes. If a parent opens a case, the CSA will determine how much child maintenance should be paid and can also collect and pass on child maintenance payments.

In the quarter to September 2011 there were 900 cases with a female parent with care benefiting from maintenance in Leicester South Constituency, 3,000 in Leicester Local Authority and 551,900 in England.

Cases benefiting from maintenance are referred to as cases with a positive maintenance outcome. In addition the table below provides the number of cases, with a female parent with care in the specified areas, where maintenance was due and the number and percentage of these cases with a positive maintenance outcome in the three months to September 2011.

Cases benefiting from maintenance—September 2011

	Maintenance due	*Positive outcome*	*Percentage with positive outcome*
Leicester South constituency	1,200	900	75
Leicester local authority	3,900	3,000	77
England	709,800	551,900	78

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Areas are provided by matching the residential postcode of the parent with care to the Office for National Statistics Postcode Directory.
3. Cases are classed as having maintenance due if an ongoing liability to pay maintenance exists or arrears of maintenance have been requested. This group of cases consists of assessed not charging, compliant, nil compliant, maintenance direct and others with receipts.
4. Cases are counted as having a positive maintenance outcome if they have received a payment via the collection service in the quarter or have a maintenance direct agreement in place. Cases are classed as maintenance direct if this is their status at the end of the quarter.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Employment Schemes

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many organisations have provided support in the Work Choice programme since 2010. [85987]

Maria Miller: DWP has contracts with eight prime providers who deliver the Work Choice programme. Between them, the prime providers have 73 subcontractors. Other organisations provide support, such as supported employment places, on an ad hoc basis.

Employment: Disability

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Government's response to the Sayce review, what further consideration he has given to the recommendations in the Sayce review on data collection on disability; and if he will make a statement. [86979]

Maria Miller: The Government consultation on the recommendations of the Sayce review closed on 17 October 2011, and more than 1,400 responses were received. It will take time to analyse the consultation responses in detail and carefully consider the implications for future policy. We will publish a summary of responses received and a statement on future policy as soon as practicably possible.

Housing Benefit: Armed Forces

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of families with a son or daughter in the armed forces and classed as non-resident for the purposes of housing benefit who will have their housing benefit reduced because they are deemed to be underoccupying their property from April 2013. [87326]

Steve Webb: The information needed to provide an estimate is not available.

The number of working-age housing benefit claimants living in the social rented sector and under-occupying their accommodation has been estimated using data from the Department's Family Resources Survey. However, the information needed to estimate the number of affected claimants with non-resident sons or daughters in the armed forces is not collected.

The impact assessment, entitled "Under-occupation of social housing", provides information about the effect of the housing benefit change on different groups of claimants, and can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011-ia.pdf

On 14 December 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 1300-02, the Minister for Welfare Reform, the noble Lord Freud, announced £30 million in additional funding for discretionary housing payments, starting from 2013-14. This is intended to provide additional help for working-age claimants living in the social rented sector who under-occupy their homes. We are in the process of developing guidance for local authorities on the groups of claimants that this additional funding is intended to help.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Public Finance

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of introducing weekly signing for all 18 to 24-year-olds in receipt of jobseeker's allowance from the fifth month of their claim. [87052]

Chris Grayling: The cost of providing weekly signing was included as part of a package of support within the Youth Contract that is expected to cost nearly £1 billion over the next three years. The final costs for weekly signing will be driven by the volume of claimants and the Department for Work and Pensions does not forecast unemployment levels.

Pay

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely take-up by businesses of the wage incentives announced in the autumn forecast. [87053]

Chris Grayling: The Youth Contracts provides funding for 160,000 job subsidies which will be available to employers for providing work to young people who are being supported through the Work programme. Business groups such as the CBI have called for a new incentive to encourage companies to take on young people.

Work programme providers will work with employers and young people to deliver these opportunities. We are currently working with Work Programme providers and employers on the design and implementation of the job subsidy.

Pensioners: Council Tax

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in each local authority area are in receipt of council tax benefit; and what proportion of all recipients of the benefit in each area are pensioners. [87327]

Steve Webb: The information has been placed in the Library.

Pensioners: Winter Fuel Allowance

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has any plans to put in place a mechanism to allow pensioners to repay winter fuel allowance. [87391]

Steve Webb: People have always been able to return their winter fuel payment if they wish to.

If people wish to return their payment they can do so by sending it to the address on the letter that came with their payment, or to the office that pays their benefit, with a covering letter indicating whether or not they wish to receive the payment in the future.

We ask people who want to return their payment to do so manually so that it can be dealt with securely under existing departmental financial processes and recorded against their benefit account.

Pensions Advisory Service: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by the *(a)* Pensions Advisory Service, *(b)* Pensions Regulator, *(c)* Pensions Protection Fund and *(d)* Pensions Ombudsman in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [87576]

Steve Webb: The numbers of staff are as follows:

	Number of staff	
Arm's length body (ALB)	*31 March 2011*	*30 November 2011*
The Pensions Advisory Service	42	37
The Pensions Regulator	304	333.7
Pension Protection Fund	291	243.5
Pensions Ombudsman	33.95	29.5

Notes:
1. Data for 31 March 2011 are taken from the Annual Report and Accounts of each ALB for 2010-11. In the case of The Pensions Advisory Service and The Pensions Regulator these are average staffing figures for the year.
2. The increase in the number of staff for The Pensions Regulator is associated with additional resources provided for the auto enrolment employer compliance regime.

Poverty: Children

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children are classed as living in poverty in each local authority in England. [87408]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

The sample size of this survey is not sufficient to provide estimates for small areas such as those requested. However, figures at a regional level are available. Three survey years have been combined because single year estimates are not considered to be sufficiently reliable.

Statistics covering 2007-08 to 2009-10 are the most recent available.

The following table shows the proportion and number of children living in relative poverty Before Housing Costs (BHC) in England, for 2007-08 and 2009-10 in each region.

Numbers and proportions of children in households with equivalised incomes below 60% of contemporary median income by region Before Housing Costs (BHC) 2007-08 to 2009-10

	Proportion of children (%)	*Number of children (million)*
England	21	2.3
North-east	26	0.1
North-west	25	0.4

Numbers and proportions of children in households with equivalised incomes below 60% of contemporary median income by region Before Housing Costs (BHC) 2007-08 to 2009-10

	Proportion of children (%)	Number of children (million)
Yorkshire and the Humber	26	0.3
East midlands	23	0.2
West midlands	29	0.3
East	16	0.2
London	20	0.3
South-east	14	0.2
South-west	16	0.2

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS) available at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai_arc This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. Net disposable incomes have been used to answer the question. This includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax, payments, national insurance contributions, council tax/domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
3. Figures have been presented on a Before Housing Cost rather than an After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Costs, housing costs are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Costs they are.
4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
5. The reference period for these HBAI figures is three financial years.
6. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand children.
7. Proportions of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
8. This measure is defined as: Relative poverty: children living in households with equivalised incomes below 60% of contemporary median household income Before Housing Costs (BHC).
9. The Child Poverty Act 2010 sets three further income-based UK-wide targets to be met by 2020. The targets are based on the proportion of children living in households with combined low income and material deprivation, absolute low income and persistent poverty.

Source:
Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2009/10, DWP.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit sanctions were issued by *(a)* constituency and *(b)* region in each month since June 2010. [79158]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of benefit sanctions by *(a)* constituency and *(b)* region in each month since June 2010 for jobseeker's allowance, employment and support allowance, and income support has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider providing support to those who lose the severe disability element of income support once their youngest child passes the age of 18 years. [85888]

Maria Miller: The severe disability premium, which is paid to disabled people in receipt of income support, is intended for severely disabled people who live alone, and who are therefore most likely to need to purchase care.

Once a child is no longer classed as a dependent and continues to live at home, the parent is no longer defined as living alone and entitlement to the severe disability premium will cease.

With the introduction of universal credit the Government intend to reform the current system of multiple, overlapping disability premiums and tax credits and instead create a much simpler system. Universal credit will have two elements of additional support for disabled people who are assessed as having limited capability for work or limited capability for work and work-related activity. This additional support will not be affected by the presence of non-dependent children in the household.

Social Security Benefits: Foreign Nationals

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Witham (Priti Patel) of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 594W, on social security benefits: foreign nationals, on what date the recording of the nationality of benefit claimants was discontinued; what the reasons were for this decision; and on what date he plans to resume such recording. [87604]

Chris Grayling: The nationality of benefits claimants has never been systematically recorded by the Department for Work and Pension's benefit payment systems, as nationality in itself is not a condition of entitlement.

I have commissioned work to release information regarding the nationality of benefits claimants at the point of registration for a national insurance number. I hope to make these preliminary statistics available shortly. In addition, I have asked my officials to look into ways of capturing nationality information at source.

Social Services: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 515W, on social services: finance, on which dates Ministers in his Department have met ministerial colleagues to discuss the impact of the resource review on social care; and who was present at each such meeting. [87449]

Maria Miller: I regularly discuss a range of issues relating to the social care system with ministerial colleagues, however to date I have had no dedicated meetings on the impact of the Local Government Resource Review on social care.

Vaccination: Compensation

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the provisions of the Vaccine Damage Payment Act 1979; and whether he plans to bring forward proposals to amend the Act to include all new vaccines; [81394]

(2) how many claims under the Vaccine Damage Payment Act 1979 were made in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and how many were successful. [81395]

Maria Miller: The Vaccine Damage Payments scheme was reviewed in 2000 and resulted in a number of changes to the Vaccine Damage Payments Act 1979 including lowering the disability threshold from 80% to 60% and increasing the time limit for making a claim. There are no plans to introduce any further changes to the Act.

The information requested on the number of vaccine damage payments claims and awards made is not available in the format requested but such information as is available is contained in the following table.

Vaccine damage claims and awards

	Claims	*Awards*
2008-09	62	0
2009-10	62	3
2010-11	91	1

Notes:
1. Financial year is from April to March.
2. Payments made in any one year do not necessarily relate to the specific claims made in that year. This is largely due to the scheme's generous time limits for seeking a review of a vaccine damage payments decision and the fact that there is no time limit for making an appeal to an independent tribunal.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to improve the speed of administration of the winter fuel allowance for those aged over 80 so that people who turn 80 after 27 September in a given year receive the higher level that winter; if he will consider paying a proportion of the over 80 rate of winter fuel allowance to people who turn 80 after 27 September in a particular year once their claim has been processed; and if he will make a statement. [86927]

Steve Webb: The qualifying week for winter fuel payments is set in legislation as the third full week in September. Payment is made according to people's circumstances in that week. We use this date in order to establish entitlement and make payments before Christmas. The process to establish the entitlement of over 12 million pensioners takes six weeks and the first payments, to the poorest pensioners, are sent in early November. Payments continue to be sent through to December.

The winter fuel payment is a simple scheme to administer. Introducing pro-rata payments would make the scheme more complex. The process of establishing the amount of entitlement in individual cases would delay payments, and add significant expense.

Work Programme

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has put in place a contingency strategy for dealing with a Work programme provider which experiences financial difficulties. [87044]

Chris Grayling: All providers were required to demonstrate at the bidding stage that they had the financial capacity to deliver the Work programme. In addition, there are mechanisms in place to forewarn the Department about the potential failure or withdrawal of providers, allowing the Department to put alternative arrangements in place before service delivery is affected.

The Work programme contracts have been set-up with two to three providers in each contract package area, so there will be at least one alternative provider in each area which can continue to support participants should a provider fail, in advance of a competition being run to replace the failing provider.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each category of jobseeker he expects to be referred to the Work programme in each month of 2012. [87045]

Chris Grayling: An updated set of volumes based on the recent OBR forecasts will be issued to providers before Christmas.

Following are the previous set of indicative volumes sent to providers for claimant starts by payment group. The estimates for 2011-12 are for the 10 month period from when the Work programme went live in June 2011, to March 2012.

Volume estimates have been formulated for each year only.

	2011-12	*2012-13*
JSA 18-24	81,000	69,000
JSA 25+	294,000	241,000
JSA Early Access	40,000	42,000
JSA Ex-IB	23,000	36,000
ESA Volunteer	65,000	69,000
ESA Flow	56,000	66,000
ESA Ex-IB	53,000	74,000
IB/IS (England only)	16,000	19,000
Total	628,000	616,000

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will enable Work programme prime providers to publish the number of jobseekers they have placed into employment. [87046]

Chris Grayling: The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet the required high quality standards and we will be seeking advice from the UK Statistics Authority on whether we can permit Work programme prime providers to publish performance information ahead of the release of these official statistics on Work programme job outcomes in autumn 2012.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what comparative assessment he has made of the performance of the Work programme and that of the Flexible New Deal at the same stage of development. [87047]

Chris Grayling: The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish statistics that meet high quality standards; no valid assessment of Work programme performance will be possible before official statistics on referrals are published from spring 2012 and on job outcomes from autumn 2012.

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with Work programme providers since the publication of the most recent unemployment forecasts by the Office for Budget Responsibility. [87049]

Chris Grayling: The DWP officials managing Work programme contracts will be responsible for communications with providers concerning the Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts.

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the most recent forecast by the Office for Budget Responsibility of levels of unemployment on the capacity of Work programme providers to deliver their existing contracts. [87050]

Chris Grayling: An assessment will be made following discussions about the new unemployment forecasts between DWP officials and Work programme providers.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution by the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Nick Smith) of 8 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 418W, on core cities, whether he plans to allow all local authorities to participate in the Work programme. [87176]

Chris Grayling: For the Work programmeto be successful we need to tap into the experience, knowledge and specialist skills of local partners in order to deliver the personalised and localised services required in today's labour market. We expect Work programme providers to work with local authorities and local enterprise partnerships alongside other local organisations to understand and meet the needs of individuals from all customer groups.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department *(a)* how much her Department received through the collection of fees from those holding personal licences under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and *(b)* what the operating costs were of the Animals in Science Regulation Unit in each of the last three years. [86188]

Lynne Featherstone: Section 8 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 requires that:

"The holder of a certificate issued under section 6 or 7 shall pay such periodical fees to the Secretary of State as may be prescribed by or determined in accordance with an order made by him."

The fees are required to cover the cost of operating the 1986 Act. Designated breeders and suppliers pay a single fee: designated scientific procedure establishments pay a standard charge supplemented by an additional charge based on the number of live personal licences valid at that place during the fiscal year.

Fees are charged annually one year in arrears and comply with HM Treasury fees and charges principles. The operating costs are reviewed against the accrued fee income for that particular year which is based on the actual fees received in the previous financial year. Any shortfall is taken into account the following year.

The cost of operating the 1986 Act and accrued income is in the following table.

£000

Fiscal year (April to March)	*Operating costs*	*Estimated fee income*
2008-09	3,625	3,600
2009-10	3,830	3,800
2010-11	3,895	3,900

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legal advice she has received on the suitability of implementing some or all the requirements of Directive 2010/63/EU relating to animal experimentation by means of secondary legislation made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972; and if she will make a statement. [86633]

Lynne Featherstone: I am advised that section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 is a suitable means by which the requirements of Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes may be transposed into United Kingdom legislation.

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason her Department did not include animal welfare in the list of direct key non-monetised costs by main affected groups when conducting its impact assessment of transposition options for Directive 2010/63/EU; and if she will make a statement. [86634]

Lynne Featherstone: Animal welfare issues were fully considered in the impact assessment of the options for transposition of European Directive 2010/63/EU. In the summary of policy option 2 they are covered under "other key non-monetised costs by main affected groups" which refers to standards of care and accommodation and in the summary of policy option 3 they are covered under "other key non-monetised benefits by main affected groups". More detailed discussion of animal welfare is set out in the sections dealing with the evidence base.

Association of Chief Police Officers: Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Association of Chief Police Officers using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [73500]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not held by the Home Office and is a matter for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

Asylum

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of asylum seekers entering the UK travelled through a safe third country to reach the UK in each of the last five years. [86692]

Damian Green: In the last five years the following number of cases have been accepted for consideration for removal to a safe third country based on evidence received at the time they were encountered in the UK.

	Accepted for consideration for removal to a safe third country	*Total asylum claims*	*Proportion (percentage)*
2006	1,948	23,608	8
2007	1,792	23,431	8
2008	2,433	25,932	9
2009	2,693	24,487	11
2010	1,633	17,916	9

These figures are based on management information, and therefore are not subject to the stringent checks required for National Statistics.

Asylum: Democratic Republic of Congo

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information she used to decide that it is safe to return failed asylum seekers to the Democratic Republic of Congo; and when such information was last updated. [86730]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency carefully considers all asylum and human rights claims made by nationals of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in accordance with the UK's international obligations. All decisions take into account publicly available country information, including that found in the agency's Country of Origin Information (COI) reports. The DRC COI report was last published in June 2009; an update is scheduled to be released in early 2012. The DRC COI report (and future updates) can be accessed via the agency's website:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/coi/

To supplement COI reports officials also have access to an information request service for case-specific queries, including those relating to the DRC. This service ensures that decision makers are able to access up to date country information should they require this.

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers have been returned to Democratic Republic of Congo in the last 12 months. [86777]

Damian Green: The latest published figures show that 33 asylum seekers, including dependants, were removed or departed voluntarily to the Democratic Republic of Congo between October 2010 and September 2011; this figure is provisional.

It is not possible within these figures to say what stage in the asylum process these people have reached at the time of their removal, including whether their claim has failed at that point, because those departing voluntarily can do so at any stage without necessarily notifying the UK Border Agency.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within 'Immigration Statistics'. The data on removals and voluntary departures are available in the latest release: Immigration Statistics: July to September 2011, tables rv.01 to rv.08, from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, Research and Statistics web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Departmental Assets

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assets with a value of £250,000 or more her Department has bought since May 2010; for what purpose; and if she will make a statement. [77339]

Damian Green: There have been no assets of over £250,000 purchased by the core Home Office between May 2010 and September 2011.

Assets purchased by Home Office agencies between May 2010 and September 2011 of a value of over £250,000 are as follows:

Description	*Expenditure (£000)*
UK Border Agency	
IT system (immigration case work)	92,837
Detention centre assets (Harmondsworth)	40,652
IT system (Semaphore)	16,851
IT system (E-borders)	13,687
IT system (Warnings Index)	12,357
Biometric gates	12,005
Cyclamen radiation scanner project	11,629
Scanners and thermal imaging equipment	7,967
Estates (Croydon and Liverpool consolidations)	5,577
Secure IT system	4,951
Detention centre assets (PDE/Cedars)	4,263
Detention centre assets (Campsfield)	3,880
Secure IT system	3,606
ICW early deliverables	3,110
Detention centre assets (Morton Hall)	3,110
Mycroft tech refresh	2,953
Radio equipment	2,266
Rostering and annualised hours	1,800
National Border Targeting Centre	1,731
Detention centre assets (Brook House)	1,713
Detention centre assets (Bullingdon)	1,696
Detention centre assets (Manchester short term holding facility)	1,688
Brijot scanning	1,361
Detention centre assets (Tinsley House)	1,098
IT System (asylum support)	1,065

Description	Expenditure (£000)
Document Reader Authority	1,050
Detention centre assets (Larne)	900
Immigration and asylum finger print system	626
Partially enhanced search client—IT system	509
Next generation handheld biometrics	500
Identity cards for foreign nationals	423
Central IT reference system	360
Body scan units	358
Visa applications for UK	356
Other IT (central interface)	303
UKBA total	259,238
Criminal Records Bureau	
Vetting and barring scheme intangible assets	2,500
Computer hardware	1,380
Customer relationship management database	1,100
CRB total	4,980
Identity and Passport Service	
Replacing passport printing equipment	29,000
Replacing and upgrading passport operating system	20,600
National Identity Assurance Service	13,200
Relocation costs (Belfast passport office)	2,000
IPS total	64,800

Industrial Disputes

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many staff in her Department were re-deployed to cover the work of staff involved in industrial action on 29 and 30 November 2011; and what the cost was of *(a)* overtime payments including travel time, *(b)* time off in lieu of overtime, *(c)* travel, accommodation and subsistence costs and *(d)* bonus and other payments for that purpose; [86283]

(2) how many Government employees from outside her Department were re-deployed to cover the work of staff in her Department at ports and airports involved in industrial action on 29 and 30 November 2011; and what the cost was of *(a)* training, *(b)* overtime payments including travel time, *(c)* time off in lieu of overtime, *(d)* travel, accommodation and subsistence costs and *(e)* bonus and other payments for that purpose. [86284]

Damian Green: A total of 1,100 staff from the UK Border Agency (UKBA), Home Office and volunteers from other Government Departments, were deployed to ports and airports to maintain border controls and entry checks during the period of industrial action on 29 and 30 November. The number of staff involved, with a range of Home departments and deployments to ports and airports across the UK, has led to some delay in accurately reconciling an accurate breakdown of management information. Work to complete this task has been commissioned and is already under way.

In addition, UKBA are reviewing additional travel and subsistence costs incurred by staff that deployed to primary control points over the period of industrial action. The majority of staff have yet to submit reimbursement claims, meaning that it is too early to provide an accurate breakdown of costs. This will be done once claims are processed and properly reconciled.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any staff of British diplomatic posts overseas were flown back to the UK to cover the work of staff in her Department involved in industrial action on 29 and 30 November 2011; and what the cost was of *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation for any such staff. [86285]

Damian Green: Not all eligible staff have currently submitted reimbursement claims, meaning that an accurate breakdown of numbers and cost is not yet available.

Departmental Secondment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what secondments there have been to her Department from *(a)* industry and *(b)* the third sector since May 2010; what the (i) purpose and (ii) duration is of each secondment; and whether each secondment was to a policy development role. [86132]

Damian Green: The Home Department has appointed 69 staff on secondment since 31 May 2010 but it is not possible to separate out this figure to report on the *(a)* industry and *(b)* third sector that these secondments came from without contacting individual line managers to check locally-held records which would incur a disproportionate cost. For the same reason, it is also not possible to report on the (i) purpose and (ii) duration of each secondment, or whether each secondment was to a policy development role.

Entry Clearances

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for leave to remain were received from those resident in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley in the last 12 months. [86753]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency received 80 applications for leave to remain from those resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in the last 12 months. A further 256 applications were received for residents in the London borough of Bexley.

Notes:

1. Figures are from 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011.
2. All figures quoted are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks.

Entry Clearances: Iran

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements her Department has made to assist those whose personal papers and applications for visas were destroyed during the incident at the British embassy in Tehran; and if she will make a statement. [87193]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) hopes to put in place shortly an arrangement with a third state to oversee UK interests in Iran. UKBA will

work with that country to assess how best to return to their owners' documents submitted during the visa application process. Every effort has been made to secure these documents. Applicants will be informed as soon as possible about these arrangements but it is currently not possible to say exactly when this will happen. UKBA is aware that some applicants are urgently seeking the return of their documents and deeply regret that the attack on the embassy has resulted in such inconvenience or distress.

EU Justice and Home Affairs

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 457W, on EU Justice and Home Affairs, what progress has been made in compiling the list of police and criminal justice instruments adopted under the pre-Lisbon treaty third pillar arrangements which would be liable to transfer to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in 2014 should the UK opt to accept the transfer at the end of the transitional period granted under Article 10 of Protocol 36 to the consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union. [86853]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* The provisions of Article 10(1) and the notification under Article 10(4) of the Protocol on Transitional Provisions apply to Acts of the Union in the field of police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters which have been adopted before the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty on 1 December 2009 where those Acts have not subsequently been repealed, annulled or amended.

Officials are currently finalising the list of measures which the Government anticipate will fall within the scope of this notification and this will be made available to Parliament as soon as possible.

Members: Correspondence

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer Question 71147, on public disorder and police funding, tabled by the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington on 6 September 2011. [83230]

Nick Herbert: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 7 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 318W.

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will arrange for the hon. Member for Walsall North to receive a reply to her letter of 7 November 2011 to HM Revenue and Customs, subsequently transferred to the UK Border Agency, CTS reference B29002/11. [87043]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency replied to the hon. Member on 13 December.

The letter was received by the UK Border Agency on 15 November and therefore responded to within the agreed service standards.

Gang and Youth Violence: Crime Prevention

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the report, "Ending Gang and Youth Violence" whether the £10 million of funding to be distributed by April 2012 had previously been allocated for other purposes; and if she will make a statement. [86388]

James Brokenshire: The £10 million on funding is a prioritisation of previously announced Home Office investment in early intervention as the "Ending Gang and Youth Violence" report states.

Police: Pay

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to *(a)* receive the recommendation of the Police Arbitration Tribunal on police pay and conditions and *(b)* announce her response to that recommendation. [86279]

Nick Herbert: The timing of the recommendation on Part 1 of the Independent Review of Police Officer and Staff Remuneration and Conditions is a matter for the Police Arbitration Tribunal.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), will consider the PAT's recommendations very carefully in line with her statutory responsibilities and announce her decision in due course.

Security Guards: Licensing

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether her Department has issued any covert licences for security guards at Thames Water; [86598]

(2) how many covert licences were issued in the last two years. [86599]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* Security industry licences are issued by the Security Industry Authority (SIA). Security operatives working under contract require a SIA licence and must adhere to certain licence conditions, one of which is to have the licence on display at all times while working. A specific covert activity can be applied if an operative can demonstrate that the nature of their conduct on that occasion requires them to not be identifiable. This covert activity allows, for example, store detectives or close protection operatives to perform licensable activities without the need to be identifiable. However, all security operatives must carry their licence on them and produce it on request. The SIA do not require individuals to report if they use this specific licence condition, but the breach of any licence condition is an offence liable to prosecution. An SIA licence is issued to the individual and the SIA does not hold records of their employer.

Sexual Offences: Registration

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when her Department plans to introduce a requirement for registered sex offenders to notify the police of all foreign travel; [85993]

(2) when her Department plans to publish its response to its consultation on four key proposals to strengthen the notification requirements for registered sex offenders, including introducing a requirement for registered sex offenders to notify all foreign travel. [85995]

Lynne Featherstone: On 14 June 2011, the Home Office launched a targeted consultation on reforming the notification requirements for registered sex offenders. The consultation ran for eight weeks and closed on 8 August 2011. The consultation sought views on four key proposals; (i) notification of all foreign travel, (ii) weekly notification where a registered sex offender is registered as 'no fixed abode', (iii) notify when living with a minor, and (iv) notify passport, bank account and credit card details and provide proof of identification at each notification.

The Home Office is currently considering its response to the consultation which will be published in due course.

Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department allocated for work to benefit girls or young women who have been victims or are at risk of gang-related sexual exploitation and abuse in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011 to date; and how much funding she plans to allocate for such purposes in (i) 2012, (ii) 2013 and (iii) 2014. [86373]

Lynne Featherstone: The Ending Gang and Youth Violence report, published on 1 November 2011, announced £400,000 per year for 2012, 2013 and 2014 to improve services to support children under 18 suffering from rape and sexual abuse. This will include services targeted at girls and young women who are suffering from sexual exploitation from gangs.

The £4 million Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives fund announced in February 2011 includes funding projects supporting girls and young women involved in gang related violence during 2011-12 and 2012-13, and some of those services will tackle sexual violence.

Ring-fenced funding for services aimed at girls at risk of sexual exploitation from gangs was not available in 2010-11.

Metal Theft

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the statement on page 57 of the Autumn Statement (Cm 8231) that the Government will invest £5 million to set up a nationwide taskforce to target metal thieves and scrap metal dealers who illegally trade in stolen metal, whom this taskforce will comprise; who will lead the taskforce; what the anticipated timescale is of its operation; on what basis its budget has been set; and if she will make a statement. [84939]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The details of the national metal theft taskforce are currently being developed, in liaison with the British Transport police which is leading this work, and will be announced shortly.

UK Border Agency: Industrial Disputes

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Government employees from outside the UK Border Agency who were re-deployed in *(a)* ports and *(b)* airports to cover the work of staff involved in industrial action on 29 and 30 November 2011 received (i) less than one day's training, (ii) one day's training, (iii) two days training or (iv) more than two days training in preparation for carrying out that work. [86286]

Damian Green: Staff deployed received training appropriate to their level of experience, skill set and the nature of the operational function they fulfilled during the period of the industrial action. Courses ranged from half-a-day (mainly aimed at senior UKBA staff so they could operate the e-gates at ports with this facility) a one day refresher course for those who had previous operational experience; and up to four days that allowed staff to conduct entry checks on non EU/EEA arrivals. The training was supported and reinforced by operational mentoring prior to deployment to ports or airports.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent staff worked for the UK Border Agency in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and how many she expects to work for the Agency in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15; and if she will make a statement. [76452]

Damian Green *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* The average work force figure for 2010-11 can be found in the UK Border Agency annual report and accounts 2010-11 The report can be found online at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/annual-reports-accounts/

Home Office work force plans are designed to be flexible to best support evolving business priorities throughout the spending review period and to be affordable within the Home Office's spending review settlement.

Detailed plans for the years (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 are not available at this time. The (iii) 2014-15 work force will be in the order of 18,000. This amounts to a reduction of around 5,200 over the spending review period.

Union of Good

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the representation of people listed by her Department as supporters of the Union of Good on bodies funded by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [86881]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* The Prevent strategy states that neither Prevent funding nor support will be given to organisations that hold extremist views or support terrorist-related activity of any kind, in this country or overseas. This applies irrespective of the source of the funding: central Government, local government or policing. With regard to the Union of Good, I am not aware of any such list.

Vetting

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that individuals charged with, but not convicted of, criminal offences have recourse to remove any allegations from their enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks. [82034]

Lynne Featherstone: The Protection of Freedoms Bill will, when enacted, make amendments to part V of the Police Act 1997. Specifically, a process will be introduced for people to ask for an independent review of any information disclosed by a chief officer on an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) certificate that they consider not to be relevant or ought not to be included on the certificate.

Vetting: Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Criminal Record Bureau's (CRB) policy is on disclosing details of an applicant's sectioning under the Mental Health Act in a CRB certificate when no offence has been committed; whether any assessment has been made of the effects of such disclosure on an applicant; and if she will make a statement. [86017]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not have a policy on the disclosure of information concerning a person's mental health. This is because part V of the Police Act 1997, under which the CRB operates, provides that the chief officer of a relevant force may release any information which they consider relevant to the purpose of the disclosure and which they consider ought to be included on the certificate. The CRB are not involved in this process.

Vetting: Standards

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* target time and *(b)* average time taken was to complete a Criminal Records Bureau check from when the completed form is received; and how many such checks have taken more than six months to complete in the last year. [80929]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) aims to process 90% of all enhanced checks within 28 days of receipt of a fully completed application form and 95% of standard checks within 10 days.

The following table shows the average time taken to complete both standard and enhanced CRB checks in the last 12 months and those that have taken longer than six months to complete.

There are a number of factors that can affect the timely completion of CRB checks, including but not restricted to the length of time it can take for an employer to deal with the initial application; the accurate completion of the application form; the clarity of the information provided; the existence of conviction or non-conviction information and the operational effectiveness of the disclosure units of the police forces involved in the CRB checking process.

Most enhanced certificates are delayed at the police local intelligence checking stage. I am aware that such delays have meant that the CRB has in the past had some problems meeting its agreed targets. However, I am pleased to confirm that there has been a significant improvement in terms of overall turnaround between the police and the CRB, following the implementation of a range of improvements.

In October, the CRB issued over 95% of enhanced CRB certificates within 28 days.

	Standard disclosures			*Enhanced disclosures*			
	Certificates issued	*Average turnaround*	*Number taking over six months*	*Certificates issued*	*Average turnaround*	*Number taking over six months*	*Percentage taking over six months*
November 2010	15,814	5.2	0	372,575	24.65	1,442	0.39
December 2010	10,247	5.08	0	302,084	24.44	1,032	0.34
January 2011	12,496	4.23	0	307,286	24.36	1,054	0.34
February 2011	14,485	5.25	0	337,472	18.07	1,025	0.30
March 2011	19,372	4.99	0	361,111	15.25	911	0.25
April 2011	17,148	4.59	0	277,168	13.26	745	0.27
May 2011	21,582	3.86	0	284,977	13.15	716	0.25
June 2011	21,563	4.63	0	326,472	12.04	619	0.19
July 2011	20,947	4.71	0	328,984	11.08	329	0.10
August 2011	22,811	4.7	0	315,833	10.35	152	0.05
September 2011	20,204	4.42	0	301,085	9.54	191	0.06
October 2011	23,638	5.42	0	348,786	10.83	166	0.05
Total	220,307	4.7	0	3,863,833	15.7	8,382	0.22

Violent and Sex Offender Register

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when her Department intends to publish its response to the consultation on proposals to strengthen the notification requirements for registered sex offenders; [85916]

(2) what progress her Department has made on the introduction of a requirement for registered sex offenders to notify the police of all foreign travel. [85917]

Lynne Featherstone: On 14 June 2011 the Home Office launched a targeted consultation on reforming the notification requirements for registered sex offenders;

the consultation ran for a period of eight weeks and drew to a close on 8 August 2011. The consultation sought views on four key proposals: (i) notification of all foreign travel, (ii) notify weekly where registered as 'no fixed abode', (iii) notify when living with a minor and (iv) notify of passport, bank account and credit card details and provide proof of identification at each notification.

The Home Office is currently considering its response to the consultation which will be published in due course.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she intends to answer question 57878 from the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire on 25 May 2011 on the UK Border Agency. [83835]

Damian Green: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 798W.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer Question 80423 on the UK Border Force, tabled on 8 November 2011 for named day answer on 14 November 2011. [84491]

Damian Green *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 13 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 627-8W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Telecommunications Masts

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to encourage mobile telephone networks to share telecommunication masts. [86813]

Mr Vaizey: The mobile telephone operators already have established network sharing arrangements, as evidenced by Cornerstone, a network sharing agreement between Vodafone and O2 and the Mobile Broadband Network Limited company established by Everything Everywhere and Three UK.

Arts Council England: Finance

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England spent in each local authority area *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of local population in each of the last three years. [87104]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England have produced a table with the total funding levels for the last three years, and the funding per head for the last three years in each local authority area of England. A copy will be deposited in the Library of both Houses.

Arts Council England: Torbay

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which organisations in Torbay constituency received Arts Council England funding in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10, *(d)* 2010-11 and *(e)* 2011-12. [87102]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England gave grants for the arts (GA) and managed funds (MF) to the following organisations in the Torbay constituency in:

(a) 2007-08:

Acumen Publications (GA)—Acumen Poetry

Torbay Play Forum (GA)—Creative Play in the Bay

Torbay council (GA)—Developing the Torbay Creative brand Website

Torbay council (MF)—Local Authority Partnership Agreement

(b) 2008-09:

None

(c) 2009-10:

Torbay Poetry Festival (GA)—Bringing the Best Poetry to the Community

Shiona Morton (GA)—Extension to Attachment at the Bristol Old Vic

Acumen Publications (GA)—Keeping the Profile of Poetry High

Oldway Primary School (GA)—Pamoja 2

Torbay council (MF)—LA Regional Improvement project

Torbay council (MF)—Development of Planning Area for Culture, Torbay

Torbay council (MF)—Work to develop improved cultural services delivery in the South West.

(d) 2010-11:

Torbay Play Forum (GA)—Midwinter Mischief

Acumen Publications (GA)—Acumen Poetry

(e) 2011-12:

None

Broadband

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to accelerate progress of the 4G broadband roll-out. [86395]

Mr Vaizey: The Office of Communications (Ofcom) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have been working on the earliest availability of both bands expected to be used for 4G broadband services. The 800 MHz band will be available following the completion of digital switchover in 2012 and the subsequent clearance of DTT from channels 61 and 62 which is expected to be completed by the end of 2013. The 2.6 GHz band will be available following the completion of radar remediation work which is also expected to be completed in areas covering the majority of the population by the end of 2013. The preparation and timing of the auction is an operational one for the independent regulator, Ofcom, who expect to conduct an auction of the bands starting in second half of 2012.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress has been made on his Department's rural broadband roll-out programme; and if he will make a statement. [86705]

Mr Vaizey: Eight local broadband projects are currently in procurement and will enter delivery next year. The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport is challenging all local authorities and the devolved Administrations to have their local broadband plans approved by the end of April at the latest and to be ready for procurement within three months of this approval.

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), is confident that they will be able to meet this timetable and that deployment will be complete by 2015.

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what receptions and events have been hosted by his Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by third parties. [84219]

John Penrose: The receptions and events shown in the table have been hosted by Ministers since May 2010.

Minister	*Month and year*	*Reception/event*
Jeremy Hunt	May 2010-	Culture speech
Jeremy Hunt	May 2010	Media speech
Jeremy Hunt	June 2010	Tourism speech
Hugh Robertson	September 2010	Reception for chairs and CEOs of sporting bodies
Ed Vaizey	November 2010	Future of UK film industry event
Hugh Robertson	November 2010	Sports reception
Jeremy Hunt	December 2010	Reception for journalists
Hugh Robertson	March 2011	Valedictory dinner for David Higgins
Ed Vaizey	March 2011	BT parliamentary reception
Hugh Robertson	August 2011	Journalists reception
Jeremy Hunt	August 2011	Local TV road shows: Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Newport
Jeremy Hunt	September 2011	Local TV road shows: Glasgow, Belfast, London

Information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups can be found on the Department's Transparency website at the following link:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/

Other events, such as Round Table meetings hosted by the Departments' officials and Ministers are not compiled centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost for the period requested.

Diamond Jubilee 2012: Medals

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to make the diamond jubilee medal available to veterans who wish to receive one. [86252]

Hugh Robertson: Detailed eligibility criteria for the Diamond Jubilee medal are a matter for sponsoring Departments and the devolved Administrations. As with the golden jubilee, the diamond jubilee medal will be issued only to those who meet the eligibility criteria and are in service on and including the 6 February 2012.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will consider extending the eligibility for the Queen's Jubilee Medal to *(a)* St John Ambulance and *(b)* other such voluntary organisations. [87405]

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will consider extending the eligibility for the Queen's diamond jubilee medal to *(a)* St John Ambulance Cymru and *(b)* other such voluntary organisations. [87717]

Hugh Robertson: The eligibility criteria for the diamond jubilee medal are broadly the same as that for the golden jubilee medal, which means that it will be issued to serving front-line members of the armed forces, emergency services and Her Majesty's Prison Service who have completed five years' service on, and including, Accession day, 6 February 2012.

The Government are actively considering additional ways to visibly recognise and reward the work of outstanding voluntary organisations such as the St John Ambulance in Her Majesty's diamond jubilee year.

Internet: Access

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to improve access to the internet for the 10 per cent. of the population who are not included in the Government's target for the roll-out of superfast broadband by 2015; and if he will make a statement. [86447]

Mr Vaizey: The Government published their broadband strategy "Britain's Superfast Broadband Future" in December 2010, which included their target of delivering a standard 2 Mbps broadband target for virtually all premises by 2015. A copy of the strategy can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/10-1320-britains-su.perfast-broadband-future.pdf

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the findings of the Communications Management Association's Internet Opportunity Survey; and if he will make a statement. [86448]

Mr Vaizey: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport helped to fund this survey, and the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has noted the findings with great interest. It is important that we have a firm evidence base with which to inform and develop our policy making, and the Communications Management Association's Internet Opportunity Survey has made—and will continue to make—a valuable contribution to that.

Local Broadcasting: Essex

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reasons he did not name a town in Essex in his list of towns and cities to be permitted to have their own local television station. [87219]

Mr Vaizey: The list of locations that could receive a local TV service was determined by Ofcom using a range of criteria including suitable spectrum coverage. Unfortunately, local TV in Essex is not technically possible due to a lack of availability of suitable spectrum.

Music: Young People

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to support involvement in music by young people. [86798]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), and I launched the first National Plan for Music Education on 25 November which sets out Government's priorities and support for music education. In partnership with the music industry we are also supporting a new music competition, the Next BRIT Thing and 14 new rehearsal spaces across England providing young people with the space to develop their musical talents.

Olympic Games 2012: Legacy

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the legacy objectives of the London 2012 Olympics. [86762]

Hugh Robertson: We have set out our four legacy objectives in the Government's Legacy Plan published in December 2010:

Harnessing the United Kingdom's passion for sport to increase school-based and grass-roots participation in competitive sport—and to encourage the whole population to be more physically active;

Exploiting to the full the opportunities for economic growth offered by hosting the games, particularly with reference to inward investment and tourism;

Promoting community engagement and participation in voluntary work across all groups in society through the games; and

Ensuring that the Olympic Park can be developed after the games as one of the principal drivers of regeneration in east London, with particular focus on the digital and creative industries.

In meeting these objectives:

We are confident that the London 2012 games will leave behind a significant sporting legacy. Olympic venues and investment in training facilities will support local communities after the games. We are strengthening grass-roots sport through the Places People Play initiative: more than a thousand local sports clubs and facilities will be improved, the nation's playing fields protected, and 40,000 new community sports leaders recruited. We are inspiring young people, including through the School games programme to get more schoolchildren excited by competitive sport—more than 11,000 schools are already signed up.

London 2012 expects to have directly procured £6 billion worth of contracts, generating tens of thousands of supply chain contract opportunities. To date, the ODA has directly awarded contracts worth £6 billion to over 1,500 suppliers, 98% of which have been awarded to companies in the UK. The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is now undertaking procurement for £700 million worth of goods and services from the open market. We are committed to ensuring that the tourism industry maximise the economic benefits provided by the games. Including new money that has recently been announced from the GREAT campaign, plus private sector support, VisitBritain will invest around £127 million in a new international marketing programme. Over the next four years, it is expected to deliver 4.6 million extra visitors from overseas and £2.27 billion in extra visitor spend.

We are promoting community engagement though the Inspire and community-based programmes. To date, over 2,000 community-based projects have been awarded, the Inspire Mark, which is awarded to high-quality non-commercial projects inspired by the games. Also the Nations and Regions Group, established by the Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), works directly with each UK nation and region to help them realise and maximise the benefits from the economic, sporting and cultural opportunities offered by the games. Over 240,000 people applied for the 70,000 available places on the London 2012 Games Maker programme. LOCOG is now offering roles to successful applicants.

The Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC) is leading the transformation and development of the park after the games. The OPLC submitted their Legacy Communities Scheme planning application in October 2011 to guide the development needed to create up to a further 6,800 new homes (with a focus on family housing), schools and health centres, employment space for up to 4,400 jobs, and a strong sporting legacy from the park venues. The new £1.43 billion Westfield retail development at Stratford City is the largest urban shopping centre in Europe and employs 10,000 people, many of them local residents. Volterra, a consultancy commissioned by Westfield, estimates that eventually this will rise to 20,000 people. Westfield is just the start of the Olympic legacy and a symbol of the big changes coming to east London. The Olympic Park will be developed as a national and international hub for fast-growing creative and digital industries and attracting new investment to the country.

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of the potential effects of the London 2012 Olympics on Sittingbourne and Sheppey constituency. [86817]

Hugh Robertson: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) established the Nations and Regions Group to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy from London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to realise the sporting, economic, and cultural benefits of the 2012 games.

The South East stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 games, through businesses winning games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations. Some examples of how Kent, and specifically my hon. Friend's own constituency, will benefit from the games are as follows.

Over 22,000 schools and colleges across the UK have registered for LOCOG's London 2012 education programme, Get Set. 631 schools and colleges are registered in Kent including schools in Sittingbourne and Sheppey. We are also introducing the School Games, a new school sport competition which will provide more opportunities for pupils to compete in sport through a vibrant programme of regular intra- and inter-school competitions. All schools are being encouraged to sign up.

Also, "Places People Play", the mass participation Olympic legacy programme, will bring sporting legacy to life in communities across the country. This will be achieved by transforming the places where people play sport, inspiring people to make sport happen at a local level and creating sporting opportunities that give everyone the chance to become part of the mass participation legacy.

The London 2012 games will leave behind a significant sporting legacy, as well as programmes to increase participation; the whole country will benefit from London winning the right to stage the World Athletics Championships in 2017.

Over 2,000 cultural or sporting projects across the UK have been awarded the Inspire marks. In the South East 181 projects have been awarded Inspire marks. One example is Making it Last—a project led by Kent county council and the Sittingbourne Community College. It teaches young people about the importance of sustainability in a creative way. It also draws on the Olympic values and the games' Sustainability Plan. Further information can be found at:

http://www.kent20in12.org.uk/index.php/case-studies/page/63/

There has been significant support for the London 2012 Games Maker programme, with many people volunteering for the first time and the potential to carry that ambition forward in their own community beyond 2012. 240,000 people applied for the 70,000 places and LOCOG is now offering roles to successful applicants. The response to the opportunity to nominate a torchbearer to carry the flame on the Olympic torch relay has also been hugely positive. More details, including the route through the South East, can be found at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/olympic-torch-relay

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has awarded contracts to over 233 direct suppliers in the South East. One of these suppliers is CIPD Publishing, based in Sittingbourne and Sheppey. Information on businesses that have directly supplied the ODA is available in the business section of the London 2012 website at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/business-network/oda-suppliers/index.php

This information does not include contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. Also, 431 contracts have been awarded to companies in the region through CompeteFor (the website where London 2012 contract opportunities are advertised).

We are also committed to ensuring that the tourism industry maximises the economic benefits provided by the games. Including new money that has recently been announced from the GREAT campaign, plus private sector support, VisitBritain will invest around £127 million in a new international marketing programme. Over the next four years it is expected to deliver 4.6 million extra visitors from overseas and £2.27 billion in extra visitor spend.

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reasons the budget for the London 2012 Olympics ceremonies has been increased. [87232]

Hugh Robertson: The ceremonies for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are a once-in-a-generation opportunity to showcase the very best of our country to up to 4 billion people around the world, and could be worth up to £5 billion in advertising value. To get the ceremonies absolutely right, and boost the games' business and tourism legacy, we are putting additional investment into the ceremonies.

Olympic Games 2012: Bournemouth

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received on plans for the Olympic flame to pass through Bournemouth; and if he will make a statement. [87320]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for the Olympic Torch Relay.

Bournemouth will hold an Olympic Torch evening celebration on 13 July. The Olympic Torch Relay route has been devised after extensive consultation with representatives in each nation and region over the last two years, and will take the flame to within 10 miles of 95% of the population and within 20 miles of 99%.

EDUCATION

Buzz Off Campaign

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the use of mosquito devices; and if he will review the Children's Commissioner's Buzz Off campaign. [87446]

Tim Loughton: We are strongly opposed to mosquito devices being used to unfairly target children and young people. In my foreword to the 'Positive for Youth' policy statement (published on 19 December 2011), I encourage young people to "challenge the discriminatory and

inappropriate use of 'mosquito' devices". The statement also includes a case study which describes how, following representations from the member of the UK Youth Parliament for Sheffield, Sheffield city council voted unanimously to end the use of mosquito devices on all council buildings. Other local authorities that have taken similar action include Lancashire county council, Knowsley, Kent county council and Kirklees council—all as a result of successful campaigns by young people. We would support all councils taking a similar approach.

We also welcome the Children's Commissioner's 'Buzz Off' campaign which has helped to bring the issue to the attention of young people and decision-makers.

Children: Disability

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department last conducted research on the number of *(a)* deaf blind and *(b)* multi-sensory impaired children. [85551]

Sarah Teather: The school census provides annual data on the number of pupils with multi-sensory impairment receiving support at school and as part of a statement of educational needs. This is published as part of the annual analysis of children with special educational needs. The most recent analysis was published on 19 October 2011 and is available on the DFE website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d001032/index.shtml

A national audit of support services and provision for children with low incidence needs, including multi-sensory impairment was published in 2006 and is available on the DFE website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen/sen/data/a0013116/national-audit-of-low-incidence-special-educational-needs-support-services-and-provision

In addition, the Department funds the National Sensory Impairment Partnership to support local areas to improve outcomes for children with sensory impairments. Their work includes information sharing and benchmarking of local needs and services. More information is available at:

www.natsip.org.uk

Child: Protection

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has any plans to request Ofsted to investigate arrangements for safeguarding deaf children. [82529]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* Ministers have no plans to make such a request. The Government are committed to delivering a new, more streamlined and proportionate, inspection framework for safeguarding children, which will take account of the recommendations from Professor Eileen Munro's review of child protection, by May 2012.

Ofsted's new inspection framework is currently being developed and will focus on the effectiveness of all services to safeguard children, including deaf children. It will be for inspectors to identify any issues in relation to safeguarding arrangements for deaf children and, where appropriate, highlight these in inspection reports.

Children's Centres

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* optimum number of Sure Start children's centres needed to constitute a network of children's centres across the country. [86004]

Sarah Teather: The Department has not made a formal estimate of either the minimum or the optimum number of Sure Start children's centres, as this is the role of individual local authorities.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that there are a sufficient number of children's centres to meet local needs. The configuration of children's centres is for local authorities to decide in consultation with their local communities. This Government want to retain a network of Sure Start children's centres, accessible to all families but focused on those in greatest need.

The Government will shortly be consulting on revised statutory guidance on children's centres and will be seeking views on whether that guidance clarifies the statutory duties appropriately.

Children's Centres: Finance

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 441W, on children's centres: finance, *(a)* when and *(b)* where his Department published expenditure by local authorities on children's centres. [86752]

Sarah Teather: Financial reports on local authority planned budgets for their education and children's services functions, including children's centres, for 2011-12 were published by the Department for Education on 15 September 2011.

They are available on the Department's website at the following address:

http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/statistics-by-topic/schoolandlafinance/a00196758/financialreportsonlaplannedbudgetsforeducationandsocailcare

Children's Centres: Leicester

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department plans to allocate to children's centres in Leicester South constituency in each of the next four years. [86472]

Sarah Teather: Since April 2011, funding for children's centres has been included within the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). The allocation for 2011-12 and the indicative allocation for 2012-13 for Leicester city council are shown in the following table. Funding beyond March 2013 is subject to future announcements.

The EIG is an un-ring-fenced and un-hypothecated funding stream that gives local authorities flexibility to target resources strategically and to intervene early to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. It is up to local authorities to judge how best to use this funding in consultation with local communities, taking account of local need and evidence of what is most effective. Local authorities have statutory duties under the Childcare Act 2006 to provide sufficient children's

centres to meet local need so far as is reasonably practicable, and to ensure there is consultation before opening, closing or making significant changes to services through children's centres.

	Early Intervention Grant (£)
2011-12	18,584,125
2012-13	19,360,725

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85631]

Tim Loughton: Potential internal audit tasks are identified and prioritised on an iterative basis using a system of high level risk assessments across all key business areas. These assessments result in weighted scores for key risks areas including financial, reputational, delivery capacity and capability. Those business areas with the highest scores are prioritised for audit attention. Other sources of assurance are also taken into account to avoid potential duplication and nugatory work.

Identification of new and key business areas are identified through discussions with management and review of documentation such as business plans, budget plans, and ministerial submissions.

Internal audit services within the non-departmental public bodies will also be conducted on a risk-based approach, but they are directed and managed by the individual accounting officers and hence we do not have access to more specific information.

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards. [85840]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education's and its public bodies' caterers are contracted to comply with Government Buying Standards for food and catering services. Calorie labelling forms part of an evolving strategy to offer a choice of diet to our staff. From December 2011 the Department's caterer will be trialling a range of food that offers low to high glycaemic index value and as part of this process calorific information will be displayed on menu boards.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps the food and catering services in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public bodies for which he is responsible are taking to ensure the country of origin of foods are labelled on its menus and display boards. [85841]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education's and its public bodies' caterers are contracted to adhere to the Government Buying Standards for food and catering services. In line with the standards the Department's caterer has started to use menu boards to identify whether food is UK produced or imported. We will continue to work with our caterers to improve the degree and quality of the information provided.

Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73674]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), and Ministers hosted a number of events over the last 12 months at which hospitality was provided. The total amount spent was £2,438.

The total spend on ministerial official hospitality by the Department for Education and its predecessor in each of the last three financial years is:

2008-09: £4,763

2009-10: £8,998

2010-11: £3,625.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what risk registers are held by the public bodies for which his Department is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [85699]

Tim Loughton: Non-departmental public bodies are required to manage risk in accordance with the HMT Management of Risk: Principles and Concepts (the Orange Book) and any departmental risk management policy and guidance. They are not required to share the risk registers with the Department for Education. However as part of the Department's sponsorship role non-departmental public bodies do discuss their risks with the Department.

Assurance of risk handling is provided by each non-departmental public body through the Statement of Internal Control which forms part of the published annual report and accounts.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85930]

Tim Loughton: The information is shown in the following table:

	Number	*Percentage*
Responded to within 10 days	1,745	48
Responded to between 11 to 20 days	699	19
Responded to between 21 to 30 days	426	12
More than 30 days to respond	802	21
Total	3,672	100

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide this information to the committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009/10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Education Capital Review

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish a full response to the James Review of capital funding. [85980]

Mr Gibb: A full response to the James Review of capital funding will be published early in 2012.

Pre-school Education: Hampshire

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of children in East Hampshire constituency eligible for free nursery places announced in *(a)* 2010 for the most disadvantaged and *(b)* the Autumn Statement for less-advantaged two-year-olds. [86601]

Sarah Teather: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced in the Autumn Statement that the early education entitlement for two-year-olds will be expanded to around 260,000 children. The Government intend to take a phased approach to the implementation of the new entitlement. The 20% most disadvantaged two-year-olds will be eligible from September 2013. From 2014, the entitlement will be extended to around 40% of two-year-olds.

The Government have published indicative figures for how many children will be eligible in each local authority area in the first phase of the entitlement in 2013. These are available as part of the current Early Education and Childcare consultation, at the following link:

www.education.gov.uk/consultations

Our figures are to the nearest hundred, and we estimate that around 2,100 two-year-olds in Hampshire, and less than 100 in East Hampshire district, will be eligible for the entitlement in 2013.

We will publish further proposals in due course on eligibility criteria to reach 40% of two-year-olds from 2014.

Pre-school Education: Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many disadvantaged two-year-olds will be eligible for free nursery care in *(a)* Pendle and *(b)* East Lancashire under his proposals. [86061]

Sarah Teather: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced in the Autumn Statement that the early education entitlement for two-year-olds will be expanded to around 260,000 children. The Government intend to take a phased approach to the implementation of the new entitlement. The 20% most disadvantaged two-year-olds will be eligible from September 2013. From 2014, the entitlement will be extended to around 40% of two-year-olds.

The Government have published indicative figures for how many children will be eligible in each local authority area in the first phase of the entitlement in 2013. These are available as part of the current Early Education and Childcare consultation, at the following link:

www.education.gov.uk/consultations

We estimate that around 200 two-year-olds in Pendle borough, and 2,700 in Lancashire, will be eligible for the entitlement in 2013.

We will publish further proposals in due course on eligibility criteria to reach 40% of two-year-olds from 2014.

Schools: Freedom of Information

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has made an estimate of the cost to schools of responding to requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [85510]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 8 December 2011]:* The Department has made no estimate of the costs of FOI to schools. The cost of FOI to public authorities generally forms part of the consideration of the post-legislative scrutiny of the Act announced by the Ministry of Justice on 7 January this year.

Special Educational Needs: Children

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will publish the representations received by his Department on the information contained in its publication, Children with Special Educational Needs 2011: an analysis; [81541]

(2) what representations he has received to request that *(a)* local authority indicators and *(b)* regional level data not be compiled for his Department's publication Children with Special Educational Needs 2011: an analysis. [81546]

Sarah Teather: The Department received two items of feedback on the publication 'Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) 2010: an analysis'. This feedback shaped the content of the equivalent 2011 release. It included requests to retain the summary of key findings for each chapter, to limit the information displayed in cluttered charts and to give less emphasis on pupils in special schools with no SEN or at School Action for which numbers were very small.

The feedback also included requests for data on progression by school type and historic data on numbers of pupils with each primary type of SEN by age. The data were supplied to the correspondents separately. The Department has no plans to publish this correspondence in the public domain.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Minerals

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking together with the Afghan Government to prevent exploitation of Afghanistan's mineral wealth. [87169]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Afghanistan's mineral resource wealth is central to its long-term prosperity. The Department for International Development (DFID) is actively engaged in helping the Government undertake major reforms in order to maximise the benefits of these natural resources to the local economy and the Afghan people. DFID provides support to the Afghan Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Secretariat, to help ensure greater accountability and openness in the industry. DFID also provides technical expertise to the Ministry of Mines, helping to generate international investment that includes a fair deal for the Government of Afghanistan and brings about long term economic growth and jobs for local communities.

Commonwealth Development Corporation

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to improve the *(a)* transparency levels and *(b)* future ranking in the Transparency Index of the Commonwealth Development Corporation. [86462]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: CDC's new high-level business plan published in June 2011 contained a commitment to increased levels of disclosure and transparency. As a result, CDC now publishes information on the businesses where its capital is at work, the fund managers it works with and the funds investing its capital. It also publishes data on staff remuneration and operating costs. CDC has also recently become a signatory to the International Aid Transparency Initiative, the first bilateral development finance institution to do so.

I would expect these improvements to be reflected in CDC's future ranking in the Transparency Index.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects the Commonwealth Development Corporation to begin providing information on the in-country businesses invested in by its fund managers. [86463]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: CDC publishes a complete list of in-country businesses invested in by its fund managers on its website:

www.cdcgroup.com

including the sector and country of each business. This information is updated annually. CDC currently has no plans to publish additional information about in-country businesses.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that the Commonwealth Development Corporation *(a)* meets international standards for aid transparency set out in the International Aid Transparency Initiative and *(b)* publishes information at (i) organisation level, (ii) country level and (iii) activity level. [86464]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: CDC became a signatory to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) on 30 November and will begin to publish data in an IATI compliant format in the second quarter of 2012,

CDC publishes organisational information on its website:

www.cdcgroup.com

along with country and sector information about the fund managers it works with, the funds CDC invests in and the businesses receiving CDC investment.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to improve the transparency of the Commonwealth Development Corporation. [87414]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bethnal Green and Bow (Rushanara Ali) on 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 147W.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [86992]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID) two staff restaurants have operated under contract to Mitie Technical Facilities Management since December 2010. The catering section of this contract is run on a non-subsidised basis and therefore DFID is not responsible for procuring any food for its two United Kingdom offices.

Consultants

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on private sector consultants since May 2010, broken down by *(a)* company, *(b)* project and *(c)* country budget. [87063]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) introduced the central Government tracking process for consultancy in May 2010. Consultancy is subject to a stringent business case process and only approved where it is deemed to be an operational necessity. DFID spend on consultancy from May 2010 to the end of November 2011 is £2 million. The following table provides consultancy expenditure (with a value of £20,000 or above) aggregated by supplier and spend. Further detail on project titles and country budgets is not readily available and would incur disproportionate cost to provide.

Supplier	*Spend (£000s)*
PricewaterhouseCoopers	254
Hawkpoint Partners Limited	282
Mr. Phillip Powell-Davis	75.5
Coffey International Limited	87.1
The Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations Ltd	66.3
Minerva Advisory Group	66.1
Turner & Townsend PLC	64.2

Supplier	Spend (£000s)
Herbert Smith LLP	58.4
GBRW Limited	33.8
Opin Systems Limited	33.5
Social Development Direct Limited	27.5
International Organisation Development Limited	27.2
Wren Media Limited	24.9
Accenture PLC	23.4
Wind Business Support (Trading Name)	20.3

Departmental Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people were working in his Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87350]

Mr Duncan: The number of people working in the Department for International Development on 11 May 2010 and 8 December 2011 are shown in the following table.

	11 May 2010	8 December 2011
Home Civil Servant Staff	1,634	1,652
Staff Appointed In Country Staff	771	816

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget is allocated to work relating to climate change adaptation and mitigation. [86606]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government's four-yearly spending review set a budget of £2.9 billion for climate finance for the period 2011-12 to 2014-15, known as the International Climate Fund (ICF). The Department for international Development's (DFID) share of the ICF is £1.8 billion, amounting to 4.66% of the overall DFID budget for the current spending review period.

The ICF will fund both multilateral and bilateral UK climate spending and will aim for a balanced allocation between adaptation (50%), low carbon development (30%) and forestry (20%). This split will be kept under review.

Development Aid

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the development of an official development assistance monitoring strategy. [86726]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have frequent discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on development issues and Britain is committed to helping the poorest in the world.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is responsible for reporting all UK official development assistance (ODA) and receives regular monitoring reports from other Government Departments on their ODA expenditure.

DFID is on track to achieve the structural reform plan commitment to develop and implement an ODA monitoring strategy with the Treasury to ensure all Departments meet agreed contributions to UK ODA targets by March 2015. DFID and Treasury officials meet regularly to discuss progress.

DFID's report on Statistics for International Development (SID) gives full information on all UK ODA each year and can be found on

www.dfid.gov.uk

Dominican Republic: Drugs

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support the Dominican Republic in its counter-narcotics campaign. [86816]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development does not have a bilateral aid programme in the Dominican Republic and therefore we are not supporting the counter-narcotics campaign there. Our current support on counter-narcotics in the Caribbean is focused on Jamaica and the eastern Caribbean.

EU External Trade: Cocoa

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the development of a new European standard for sustainable and traceable cocoa will take into account the interests of smallholder cocoa producers in developing countries and ensure they are consulted and involved in the standard setting process; and if he will make a statement. [86721]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I agree that the interests of smallholder cocoa producers should be considered in any new standard for sustainable and traceable cocoa. However, the proposed new European standard for sustainable and traceable cocoa would be developed by the standards body for the industry itself. This body is independent.

International Conferences: Sustainable Development

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which Department will have lead responsibility for the Rio plus 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012. [87065]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is the lead Department for the Rio plus 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. DEFRA is working closely with other Government Departments, including the Department for International Development in preparing for the conference.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department will attend the Rio plus 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012. [87066]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), is leading the UK's preparations for Rio plus 20 and has confirmed that she will attend. The Department for International Development (DFID) is working closely with DEFRA and other Government Departments in preparation for Rio plus 20. A decision has not yet been taken on attendance by DFID Ministers and officials. This decision will be taken in the new year.

Japan Tobacco International

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87613]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Details of all Ministers and special advisers' hospitality are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/Public-data/

and are published every quarter in the normal way.

Kashmir: Overseas Aid

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department is sponsoring in Kashmir; and how much it has spent in Kashmir since May 2010. [87078]

Mr Duncan: UK aid to India and Pakistan supports national programmes that work in, and benefit, both Indian and Pakistan administered Kashmir. Our support to the Government of India's universal primary education programme (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) and National AIDS Control Programme includes Indian administered Kashmir. Our support to the Government of Pakistan's National Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Programme also includes Pakistan administered Kashmir. The proportion of this aid spent in Indian and Pakistan administered Kashmir since May 2010 cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. UK bilateral aid to India in 2010-11 totalled £278.9 million while UK bilateral aid to Pakistan in 2010-11 totalled £202.9 million.

UK aid has helped to rebuild bridges and schools in 2010-11 in Pakistan administered Kashmir as part of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation programme. Many of these projects are now reaching completion, with spend in 2010-11 totalling almost £8 million—9% of the £84 million committed.

Under our International Partnership Agreement Programme, DFID also provided £82,928 between April 2010 and November 2011 to support Save the Children's work in Indian administered Kashmir.

Ministerial Visits

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what visits each Minister in his Department has made to each geographical region since May 2010. [87062]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Details of all Ministers' overseas visits are available on the Department for International Development website

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Our-organisation1/Ministers/

and are published every quarter in the normal way.

Overseas Aid

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's planned spending on Official Development Assistance (ODA) was for *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14 prior to the Autumn Statement; and what its planned spending on ODA for each of those years now is. [86889]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In the recent autumn statement, the Government have recommitted itself to delivering 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) as ODA and meeting the ODA/GNI ratios as set out in the spending review.

Because the Government needs less money to meet 0.7%, they reduced the amounts allocated to ODA and to DFID in particular. Our programme budget has been reduced by around £1.1 billion over the next three years. No changes are being made to administration or front line delivery budgets.

The following table details the Department's planned spending on ODA per calendar year as set out in the 2010 spending review and the revised amounts since the autumn statement.

Calendar year ODA forecasts (in £ million)

	Original 2010 SR settlement	*Updated 2010 SR settlement*
2011	7,810	7,707
2012	8,145	7,938
2013	10,834	10,581
2014	11,491	10,957

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much Official Development Assistance funding his Department allocated to each country in which the UK has a bilateral programme for *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14 prior to the Autumn Statement; and how much such funding for each country in each of those years is now allocated. [86890]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Department for International Development's (DFID) programme allocations for each country for 2011-12 and 2012-13 are available in the annual report, (Annex B, Page 143, Table B.6):

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Site-search/?g=annual+report

Further details on forward spending plans in individual programmes are available in Operational Plans also available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Following the autumn statement, our programme budget will reduce by £1.1 billion over the next three years. Our planning assumption is that we should still be able to deliver the set of results agreed in the Bilateral Aid Review, Multilateral Aid Review, Humanitarian

Emergency Response Review and related processes. We have no immediate plans to adjust internal budgets, although we shall look further at this as part of the normal planning process in early 2012.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much Official Development Assistance funding his Department allocated to each of the multilateral programmes it funds for *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14 prior to the Autumn Statement; and how much such funding for each country in each of those years is now allocated. [86891]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides core funding to a large number of multilateral organisations. All this funding is related to performance. Allocations for 2013-14 will depend on an update to the Multilateral Aid Review which will take place in 2013. Allocations for other years are also indicative only, as they may be varied according to need as well as performance. These indicative allocations have not changed following the Autumn Statement.

We have produced a table to show the breakdown of the indicative allocations of core funding through each multilateral organisation for 2011-12 and 2012-13. We will place a copy of the table in the House of Commons Library.

This support is core, so the multilateral organisations decide on how it is allocated by country. As such, we are unable to provide the breakdown by country.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) which of his Department's budgets will be affected by the announcement in the Autumn Statement of a reduction in funding as a result of the decrease in gross national income; [87239]

(2) what proportion of the reduction in his Department's budget announced in the Autumn Statement as a result of the decrease in gross national income will be taken from *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral programmes; and which projects will be cancelled. [87240]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: At this stage, our planning assumption is that we should still be able to deliver the set of results agreed in the Bilateral Aid Review, Multilateral Aid Review, Humanitarian Emergency Response Review and related processes. We have no immediate plans to adjust internal budgets, although we shall look further at this as part of the normal planning process in the first quarter of 2012.

Overseas Aid: Agricultural

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what proportion of his Department's expenditure has been allocated to agricultural projects in each *(a)* region and *(b)* country in 2011-12; and how much has been allocated to each individual project. [87064]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's (DFID) total and percentage expenditure allocated to agricultural projects in 2011-12 is not yet available as the breakdown of multilateral expenditure by sector is not reported until the following financial year.

In 2011-12 the total bilateral expenditure allocated to agriculture is £136,904,067. A table detailing DFID's 2011-12 bilateral expenditure allocated to agriculture, by project and region/country, has been submitted to the House Library.

Thailand: Overseas Aid

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received on the humanitarian situation in Mae Sot, Thailand. [86872]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) closely monitors the humanitarian situation along Thailand's border with Burma, including in the town of Mae Sot. We are aware of the continuing needs of people displaced by long-term ethnic conflict in Burma's border areas. In response, DFID is contributing towards the provision of food, shelter, other necessities and improved access to legal assistance to nearly 150,000 Burmese refugees in camps in Thailand. DFID also supports clinics in and near Mae Sot which provide medical services to Burmese people; and gives aid for basic health care, food security, improved sanitation and grants to help with the cost of schooling, for internally displaced people inside eastern Burma. The total cost of this programme over three years from 2009-12 will be more than £8 million.

When the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), visited Burma in November, he pressed President Thein Sein and senior Burmese Ministers to move urgently towards a resolution of the ethnic conflicts and for improved humanitarian access in border areas.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

18. **Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the UK's carrier strike capability. [86910]

Nick Harvey: Nothing has changed since the Strategic defence and security review in that there is a strategic requirement for a future carrier strike capability. Our assessment that expeditionary airpower can be delivered through other means in the short-term was illustrated by the campaign in Libya, this also confirmed our assumption that working more closely with allies and partners is both possible and delivers more military capability.

The strategic environment in the period after 2020 is far less certain. This is why the Government believe that a modern carrier capability, able to undertake a variety of roles such as power projection, peace keeping, conflict prevention and the provision of aid and assistance in times of crisis, will be required.

21. **Glyn Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the likely *(a)* cost of and *(b)* enhanced capability arising from the aircraft carrier programme. [86913]

Peter Luff: Our latest cost estimate for the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier programme is £5.2 billion. This figure is based on the current configuration of the carriers and does not include the additional costs of installing catapults and arrestor gear to enable it to operate the more capable carrier variant of the Joint Strike Fighter decision which will be taken next year. The costs of conversion are under investigation, but are currently estimated to be in the order of £1 billion.

As part of a package of measures taken in the strategic defence and security review we have reduced overall spending on the Carrier Strike Programme by £4.4 billion over the next 10 years.

Defence Engagement Strategy

19. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made on its defence engagement strategy; and when he plans to present the strategy to Parliament. [86911]

Mr Philip Hammond: Work on the defence engagement strategy is very well advanced and I am expecting, in conjunction with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), to give formal approval to the strategy in the coming weeks, at which time it shall be announced to the House.

European Defence Agency

20. **Priti Patel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the budget of the European Defence Agency. [86912]

Mr Gerald Howarth: I represented the UK at the Defence Ministers' meeting in Brussels on 30 November, at which the European Defence Agency budget for 2012 was discussed. Our position in refusing to agree a budget increase resulted in the UK successfully securing a freeze on the European Defence Agency's budget for the second year running.

United States: Military Co-operation

22. **Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential effects on future military co-operation with the US of planned reductions in defence expenditure in that country. [86915]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The scale and scope of US reductions in defence expenditure is yet to be determined, but the US is, and will remain, our pre-eminent bilateral defence and security partner, and will keep us closely informed of any changes that might affect our future military co-operation.

Royal Navy Training Systems

23. **Laura Sandys:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the Royal Navy's new training systems on the efficiency of the fleet and availability of the UK's vessels. [86916]

Nick Harvey: The Royal Navy's new Maritime Composite Training System was unveiled on 20 October 2011. It will not affect the availability of the Royal Navy's vessels but will ensure that surface ships' warfare teams are better prepared to meet future challenges through the most efficient and effective training environment.

Basing Review

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the Scottish Government's submission to his Department's Basing review; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the submission. [86645]

Nick Harvey: We are grateful to the Scottish Government for the helpful and constructive way they conducted discussions around the Basing review, and for their continued close co-operation with us. The Scottish Government have been an extremely important partner for the Ministry of Defence throughout the Basing review.

The Scottish Government's submission on the Basing review was especially useful for the Department in fleshing out the consequences to the Scottish economy, and on local communities.

The submission was published by the Scottish Government on its website on 20 June 2011, and is available at the following link:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/06/20124743

The document will be placed in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Females

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many women joined the *(a)* Royal Air Force, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Army and at what rank in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [86500]

Mr Robathan: The following tables provide information on the number of women who joined the armed forces in each year and by rank:

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Royal Navy					
OF2	10	10	—	10	—
OF1	40	50	40	40	40
OF(Designate)	10	10	—	—	—
OR4	0	10	20	10	10
OR2/1	680	720	520	380	400
Total[1]	740	790	580	460	460

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Army[2]					
Officers	160	200	160	140	140
Other Ranks	1,090	1,370	1,110	770	850
Total	1,250	1,560	1,270	920	990
Royal Air Force[2]					
Officers	110	110	140	100	100
Other Ranks	610	790	730	440	190
Total	720	890	870	530	290

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Royal Navy					
OF2	10	10	10	—	—
OF1	30	40	40	40	20
OF(Designate)	10	10	—	10	—
OR4	10	—	—	—	—
OR2/1	420	420	390	340	140
Total[1]	470	490	440	390	170
Army[2]					
Officers	170	—	—	—	—
OF2	—	20	20	10	20
OF1	—	20	20	20	20
OF(Designate)	—	100	90	90	80
Other Ranks	970	—	—	30	—
OR6	—	10	—	—	—
OR4	—	20	10	10	—
OR3	—	20	10	10	—
OR2/1	—	910	860	810	590
Total	1,250	1,560	1,270	920	990
Royal Air Force[2]					
OF2	20	10	10	10	10
OF1	90	80	110	70	60
OR2/1	290	430	550	500	170
Total	400	520	680	580	240

[1] Due to rounding methods used, figures may not always equal the sum of the parts.
[2] Breakdown by rank is not available prior to the introduction of JPA.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of official service residence for members of the *(a)* Royal Air Force, *(b)* Army and *(c)* Royal Navy in the last year for which figures are available. [86957]

Mr Robathan: Under the official service residence arrangements, entitlement was linked to the post which an officer had been assigned, rather than to the individual who occupied it. For the financial year 2010-11, we have estimated that the total cost attributed to 26 official service residences is some £4.7 million. This includes rent, utilities, planned and unplanned maintenance, improvements, furniture and equipment, household staff, and official entertainment. It is important to note that many official service residences are grade listed buildings and protected by law. As a result they are often expensive to maintain whether they are occupied or not.

Final costings for the financial year 2010-11 are currently being compiled.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers had a status entitling them to official service residence in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Royal Navy as at 1 December 2011. [86958]

Mr Robathan: Under the official service residence (OSR) arrangements, entitlement was linked to the post which an officer had been assigned, rather than to the individual who occupied it. At the point at which the designation was abolished, there were 26 service appointments that had a requirement for the incumbent to occupy an OSR. Some of these posts will be open to officers from each of the services, such as the Chief of the Defence Staff, and there is therefore no division between the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force.

Armed Forces: Suicide

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 231W, on armed forces: suicide, how many suicides were recorded *(a)* among male veterans

and *(b)* men in the UK aged under the age of 24 years in the latest period for which figures are available. [86776]

Mr Robathan: Further to the answer I gave to the hon. Member on 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 231W, the Ministry of Defence does not hold overall figures for suicides among veterans.

The latest figures for suicide and open verdict deaths for male army personnel aged 24 and under are for the period 2006-10, and are as follows:

Age	*Number*
Under 20	4
20-24	6

We continue to treat the issue of self-harm very seriously and, for those in the army, the risk of suicide has been decreasing over the past 15 or so years. Current figures show that male Army personnel aged under 20 were at a 9% decreased risk of suicide compared to the general UK population, and male army personnel aged 20-24 at a 70% decreased risk.

Armed Forces: Wills

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many wills of service personnel were lost by his Department or the armed services in each of the last five years; and how many of these were of service personnel who died on operations. [86772]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* Since March 2011, the recording and processing of will information has been enhanced on the Joint Personnel Administration System giving greater assurance to the accuracy of will information held. The services will form has also been reviewed to ensure that that it remains fit for purpose.

While the Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not maintain a record of wills purported to be lost, it is aware of four cases since January 2007 where an updated will has been temporarily misplaced. There is no proven case of the MOD having lost a will.

Armed Forces: Young People

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of Army recruits aged *(a)* under 18 years and *(b)* 18 years and over completed Phase 2 training and entered the trained strength in the latest period for which figures are available. [86635]

Mr Robathan: The required information is not held in the format requested. While information is available on the number completing Phase 2 training each year, this is not held against date of birth and the requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the Army have conducted some work on the numbers leaving and completing training and have identified that in financial year 2010-11, 63.4% of under 18s completed Phase 2 training and 71.7% of those who enlisted over the age of 18 completed Phase 2 training.

Aviation: Licensing

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements are in place to enable Royal Air Force pilots at the end of their commission to be exempted from any requirements in obtaining a private commercial pilot's licence. [87057]

Nick Harvey: Military pilots leaving the UK armed forces can receive credits towards private civilian pilot licences through the Qualified Service Pilot (QSP) scheme. The QSP scheme is administered by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the level of accreditation awarded is dependent upon the experience of the individual pilot.

This scheme will cease in April 2012 when the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) becomes legally responsible for aviation legislation. Proposals for a new scheme are being developed in conjunction with CAA for approval by EASA.

Defence: Finance

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment his Department has made of the balance between commitments and revenues in the defence budget *(a)* now and *(b)* at the time of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [83713]

Mr Philip Hammond: At the time of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), the then Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), announced a shortfall between our programme and our budget of £38 billion based on the Department's previous policy assumptions. These were changed during the SDSR and, as a result, this figure does not bear comparison with the current situation.

The then Secretary of State for Defence announced to Parliament on 18 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 643-5, that the actions taken since the SDSR had brought the Department's programme and budget broadly into balance. This has not changed.

Departmental Audit

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies use when deciding whether and when to hold an internal audit; and if he will make a statement. [85635]

Mr Robathan: All Departments are required to provide internal audit services. The Ministry of Defence is required to provide an annual statement on governance and this requirement relies on the assurance levels, together with associated detail, provided by internal audit reports. The annual internal audit programme is compiled in the light of existing and changing processes, risks and any concerns expressed by managers. It is agreed by the Defence Audit Committee. Audits are carried out both routinely throughout the year and on an urgent, as-required, basis. For public bodies, similar arrangements apply except that they generally have separate audit committees.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what codes of practice his Department follows when carrying out internal audits; and whether such audits are externally validated. [87139]

Mr Robathan: Ministry of Defence internal auditors follow the code of ethics (integrity, objectivity, competence and confidentiality) and professional standards as required by the rules set out by the relevant professional body, The Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors. The internal audit department is evaluated by commercial external audit companies and/or by the National Audit Office, at least every five years.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [87002]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 750-51W, to the right hon. Member for East Renfrewshire (Mr Murphy).

Departmental Communications

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* job titles and *(b)* job descriptions are of each of the (i) press officers and (ii) other public relations officers working in his Department. [86829]

Mr Robathan: Communicators are employed across defence and the armed forces. They have an important task in explaining to the public, the media, our own people and other audiences—at local, regional, national and international levels—the role of defence, our activities, capabilities and operations.

The latest centrally held records of communications posts are as at 31 March 2011. From this record we have extracted those declared as 'press officers' and separately those identified through post titles as 'public relations'. This information has been placed in the Library of the House.

Post titles within defence have evolved over a number of years and are not standardised across the Ministry of Defence. Job descriptions are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The information placed in the Library of the House includes both military and civilian posts worldwide; they represent a reduction compared with the previous year; further savings have been made across the communications area during the course of the current financial year and more reductions are planned for future years.

Departmental Manpower

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people are employed *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly by his Department and its contractors in (i) Castlemartin, (ii) Manorbier and (iii) the Territorial Army centre, Carmarthen. [87212]

Mr Robathan: The following numbers of Ministry of Defence (MOD) and contractor personnel are employed at each of the sites:

Site	*MOD employees (civilian and military personnel)*	*Contractor employees*
Castlemartin	6	58
Manorbier	2	5
Carmarthen Territorial Army Centre (Picton Barracks)	13	1

There are also currently 13 catering sub-contractor staff serving both Castlemartin and Penally ranges. The numbers of staff at each site will vary according to catering demand.

Official Visits

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what visits he has made in an official capacity in each year since May 2010; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such visit. [75416]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 18 October 2011]:* All Defence Ministers seek to travel in the most cost-effective way possible.

I refer the hon. Member to the quarterly publication of the cost of overseas travel for all Defence Ministers at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/Expenses/MinistersHospitalityReceived.htm

Information regarding the costs of UK travel by myself and my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. UK visits involve costs incurred by the Secretary of State's Private Office, his hosts, and others.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1293-94W, on departmental public expenditure, under what categories of cost within his Department's efficiency programme he expects savings to be made for each of the next four financial years. [86844]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence is aiming to make efficiency savings under the following categories during the next four financial years:

Changes to Civilian Terms and Conditions of Service

Manpower Reductions (Service and Civilian)

Estates Rationalisation

Organisational Restructuring

Restructuring of Training Organisations

Reducing Ministry of Defence Police and Guards Agency running costs

Asset Sales

Centralisation and Rationalisation of provision of manning, legal and chaplaincy services

Contractorisation

Departmental Publications

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 602W, on departmental publications, whether the Strategy for Defence, October 2011 was produced by employees of his Department or by an outside contractor; how many working hours were required to produce the document; and if he will make a statement; [86503]

(2) whether anyone other than those individuals named was sent a copy of The Strategy for Defence, October 2011; and if he will make a statement. [86504]

Mr Philip Hammond: Ministry of Defence (MOD) employees spent a total of 46 hours on the design, graphics production, and layout of the Strategy for Defence. The printing was conducted by an MOD contractor.

Only those individuals that I mentioned in my answer of 25 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 602W, were sent a copy of the Strategy for Defence by the office of my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), and the Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Lord Astor of Hever). Additional copies were subsequently provided by the Ministry of Defence's Parliamentary Branch to other members of the Defence Select Committee.

Depleted Uranium

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to cease using depleted uranium in ammunition. [87161]

Nick Harvey: The Government's continuing policy is that depleted uranium can be used within weapons; it is not prohibited under current or likely future international agreements. UK armed forces use all munitions in accordance with international humanitarian law.

European Fighter Aircraft

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 84W, on European fighter aircraft, what assumptions his Department used in the calculations of the 25-year net present value for *(a)* RAF Lossiemouth and *(b)* RAF Leuchars. [86643]

Nick Harvey: The calculations of the 25-year net present value of the relative costs of operating Typhoon from either RAF Lossiemouth or RAF Leuchars were based on assumptions covering a wide range of aspects. These included personnel, infrastructure, running costs, parenting costs for lodger units, relocation, the draw-down of the Tornado fleet and the build up of the Typhoon fleet, and the relevant operational factors for operations at both RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Leuchars.

Ex-servicemen: Employment

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the 2010 survey by the Career Transition Partnership on the employment destinations of service leavers. [86771]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence does not produce a report on the employment destinations of service leavers. However, our commercial partner surveys each service leaver who has accessed the services of the Career Transition Partnership at the six month point after discharge. The results obtained allow for graphical representation. A copy of this document has been placed in the Library of the House.

Falkland Islands

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has assessed the UK's defence capability in the Falkland Islands since the recent comments by the Argentine Government on the Islands. [87233]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 797W, to the hon. Member for New Forest East (Dr Lewis).

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 875W, on Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, (1) if he proposes that the Medical Assessment Programme will continue to treat Gulf War veterans who present themselves with physical health problems; [87040]

(2) if the Medical Assessment Programme will continue to retain the full range of services it previously offered; [87041]

(3) if the *(a)* terms and *(b)* scope of the Medical Assessment Programme have changed; and if he will place in the Library the Programme's terms of reference. [87042]

Mr Robathan: As set out in the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 875W, the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s medical assessment programme is staffed by a consultant psychiatrist. This has been the case since 2006 for the reason that the number of physical health patient referrals from GPs had declined to a very low level and such queries were normally referred back to the NHS. The MOD continues to provide advice should a GP or 1990-91 Gulf veteran require information on Gulf health issues.

In his report on veterans' mental health care, the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison), recommended that the medical assessment programme should continue as the feedback from veterans is that it continues to provide a valuable service while NHS mental health services for veterans are being further developed across the UK. Full details about the service offered by the Medical Assessment Programme are available on the MOD's website, at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/HealthandSafety/GulfVeteransIllnesses/TheMedicalAssessmentProgramme.htm

A copy of this information has been placed in the Library of the House.

Harrier Aircraft

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of 7 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 384W, on Harrier aircraft, if he will publish the memorandum of understanding (MOU) referred to; what similar MOUs the UK has agreed with other countries concerning UK defence assets; what the content is of those MOUs; which two non-MOU countries expressed an interest in the Harrier aircraft; who undertook the relevant analysis to establish the value of the sale of those aircraft; and who retains the intellectual property rights for those aircraft. [87409]

Peter Luff: The memorandum of understanding (MOU), between Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States concerning co-operation in post-production support of Harrier aircraft was signed in 2004. It is not our policy to publish such agreements.

I will write to the right hon. Member concerning the information on MOUs that are similar to the Harrier MOU.

I am withholding information on the states that expressed an interest as the disclosure of this information would or would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and those states.

Officials from the Ministry of Defence's Disposal Services Authority and Harrier project team jointly undertook analysis and provided advice to establish the value of the sale of the Harrier aircraft.

Intellectual property rights for these aircraft are retained by a number of companies: primarily BAE Systems and Rolls-Royce.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what flight test instrumentation has been purchased for the F-35C aircraft; and what the cost was to the public purse. [87592]

Peter Luff: No flight test instrumentation has been purchased for the F35C aircraft.

MODPGA: Scotland

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the contribution of Ministry of Defence police to the security of the defence estate in Scotland. [87011]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) attaches very high importance to the role played by the MOD police, and other security providers, in safeguarding its people, information and assets across the Defence estate, including its sites in Scotland.

The MOD's single highest security priority continues to be the protection of the UK's nuclear deterrent, where a significant contribution is provided by MOD police officers based at Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde and the Royal Naval Armaments Depot Coulport.

Nuclear Submarines

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to refurbish the Rolls-Royce nuclear submarine reactor core plant at Raynesway, Derby; and what the cost to the public purse is of any such refurbishment. [86749]

Peter Luff: We are working with Rolls-Royce on plans to refurbish the facilities at Raynesway in Derby over the period 2012 to 2022.

The Ministry of Defence is in commercial negotiations regarding this work; I am therefore withholding cost information as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Nuclear Weapons

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 833W, on nuclear weapons, how much his Department is planning to spend on collaboration with the US Administration on studies on the development of the W88 nuclear warhead. [86757]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 833W. The UK is collaborating with the US on a broad range of nuclear issues of mutual interest including US plans for the refurbishment or replacement of non-nuclear components within their W88 nuclear warhead. For the UK, collaboration with the US on the non nuclear components of their W88 programme ensures the sustainability of our own technical knowledge and skills which will assist the assessment of options to inform any future UK warhead decision.

Some £3.5 million is expected to be spent on this collaboration over the next three years.

Radiation Exposure

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* current and *(b)* former Ministry of Defence sites have been found to be radioactively contaminated; and what the suspected cause of radiation is in each case. [86838]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, details of sites identified by our Land Quality Assessment (LQA) are listed as follows. In each of these cases the principal source of contamination was found to be radium-226, a low-level contaminant.

Ministry of Defence (MOD) sites:

Stirling Lines
RAF Shawbury
RAF Henlow
RAF Kinloss
RM Condor
RAF Little Rissington
RS Anthorn
Machrihanish
Stirling Forthside

RAF Newton—(part of the site has been disposed of, the remainder is due to be sold)

Sites disposed of by the MOD:

Former DARA Almondbank and Fleetlands

HMS Daedalus

Where a site has been disposed of by the MOD, the purchaser would have received an LQA report outlining the extent of any known contamination, and this will have been reflected in the sale price.

Radioactive Waste

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 261W, on radioactive waste, for what reason the information identified in the answer as not held centrally and available only at disproportionate cost has subsequently been provided in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [86842]

Mr Robathan: The answer I gave on 26 October 2011, *Official Report,* column 261W, related to locations of the burial of radium fragments which is not held centrally.

In response to a freedom of information request, the Ministry of Defence provided details of sites where soil contaminated with radium had been identified as part of the update to the 2010 UK Radioactive Waste Inventory, which is already in the public domain.

Red Arrows: Training

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours on average Red Arrows pilots flew *(a)* in flight training and *(b)* as flight trainers in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [86826]

Nick Harvey: The Red Arrows 12-month season runs from 1 October to 30 September. The following table gives information for the average training hours flown by the Red Arrow pilots for the 2011 season.

	Average flying training hours per Red Arrow pilot[1]
2010	
October	5
November	14
December	1
2011	
January	18
February	15
March	22
April	21
May	22
June	2
July	0
August	4
September	4
Total per pilot	128

[1] Figures are rounded up to the nearest hour.

Pilots serving with the Red Arrows are not required to conduct flight training duties. Therefore no flying hours are recorded as flight trainers.

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency relating to divorce, including pension sharing orders and transfers for calculating cash equivalent transfer values, are subject to a suspension of processing; when he expects those suspensions to be lifted; and if he will make a statement. [86878]

Mr Robathan: As at 14 December 2011, the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency had some 400 cash equivalent transfer valuation applications, and no pension sharing orders, that have been subject to suspension of processing. This is an issue common across all public sector schemes following pension changes announced in the 2011 Budget which led to the suspension of all such processing pending new guidance from the Government Actuaries Department on new actuarial factors.

It is estimated that the suspension will be lifted early in the new year.

Officials are prepared to consider making interim payments on a case by case basis until this issue is resolved.

Submarines: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to encourage women in the Royal Navy to apply to serve on Vanguard and Astute-class submarines. [86892]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to my hon. Friends the Members for Gosport (Caroline Dinenage) and for West Worcestershire (Harriett Baldwin).

World War II: Military Decorations

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans last met Commander Eddie Grenfell; and what plans he has to meet him in the future. [86763]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* I have not formally met Commander Grenfell, however, I did have a chance meeting with him during the launch of the Armed Forces Community Covenant in Winchester on 16 June 2011. I have no current plans to meet with him, but he, and his fellow campaigners, are very likely to be consulted during the forthcoming independent review of the rules governing the award of military medals.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the comments by Commander Eddie Grenfell on the contribution by the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans on 6 December 2011, *Official Report,* columns 51-58WH, on Arctic convoys. [86765]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* I am aware of the campaign for further recognition for those who served as part of the Arctic Convoys, and recognise that there are many veterans who feel very strongly about this matter.

The Government have agreed that there should be a fresh review of the rules governing the award of military medals. This will be conducted by an independent reviewer with full consultation with interested parties. It will make use of all of the work already undertaken as a part of the Ministry of Defence's earlier review but will have a broader scope and an independent lead. The scope of the review and who is to lead it are expected to be announced shortly.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his policy is on the contribution by the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans on 6 December 2011, *Official Report,* columns 51-58WH, on Arctic convoys, and his statement that those who served did not face risks; and if he will make a statement; [86766]

(2) what assessment he has made of the risks taken by those who served on Arctic convoys. [86767]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* I urge the hon. Member to read the full extract of my statement of 6 December 2011, *Official Report,* columns 51-58WH, where I said

"we pay tribute to the people in the Public Gallery who are showing the medals that they won through risk and rigour".

The Atlantic Star, which was intended to show recognition of service on the Arctic Convoys, reflects that principle. I have at no point claimed that those who served on the Arctic Convoys did not face risks.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Al-Qaeda: Prisoner Escapes

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the escape of al-Qaeda prisoners from Aden. [86874]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of reports of a prisoner escape in Aden and are seeking further details.

Daljit Singh Bittu

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Indian authorities on the case of Daljit Singh Bittu. [87202]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have not made any representations to the Indian authorities on the case of Daljit Singh Bittu. The hon. Member for Leicester South will understand that the British Government have no locus to intervene in India's judicial process.

Darinderpal Singh Bhullar

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Indian authorities on the case of Professor Darinderpal Singh Bhullar. [87203]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has not raised Mr Bhullar's case with the Indian authorities. However I have written to the Indian high commissioner, most recently on 7 November, reiterating the UK Government's strong opposition to the death penalty and urging the Indian authorities not to break their seven-year de facto moratorium on the death penalty. I also raised our concerns with then Indian Foreign Secretary Rao on 28 June, and with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Preneet Kaur on 5 July. We continue to urge the Government of India to establish a formal moratorium as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty in India.

Departmental Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people were working in his Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87339]

Mr Bellingham: We record the number of UK-based staff on a monthly basis. On 1 May 2010 we had approximately 5,000 UK-based staff. At 1 December 2011 we had approximately 4,550. The reduction results from making efficiencies in the corporate support functions in the UK, the transfer of some overseas support tasks from UK-based to locally-engaged staff and the civil service recruitment freeze.

Diplomatic Service: Languages

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many heads of mission are serving in overseas postings; and how many have completed the extensive level language qualification which is linked to additional remuneration. [87054]

Mr Bellingham: There are 142 bilateral heads of mission serving in overseas postings: 105 ambassadors and 37 high commissioners. Of the 142, 96 have been identified as having a language requirement and 72 have qualified in the necessary Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) language exams. Of the 72 bilateral heads of mission with exam records, 22 have passed the FCO Extensive exam, Common European Framework of Reference for Languages level C2, the most advanced level of fluency. All FCO officers serving overseas in speaker slots (Confidence, Operational or Extensive) are entitled to claim additional remuneration for the duration of their overseas posting, provided they have passed the appropriate examination.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what formal qualifications in languages are linked to additional remuneration for his Department's staff. [87142]

Mr Bellingham: All Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) language exams are aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The following qualifications are linked to remuneration:

FCO Extensive exam, CEFR level C2, the most advanced level of fluency.

FCO Operational exam, CEFR level C1, roughly equivalent to degree level.

FCO Confidence exam, CEFR level A2, enabling them to deal confidently with routine everyday issues in the foreign language.

FCO Confidence and Operational examinations are validated by the Chartered Institute of Linguists.

All FCO officers serving overseas in speaker slots (Confidence, Operational or Extensive) are entitled to claim additional remuneration for the duration of their overseas posting, provided they have passed the appropriate examination.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many HM ambassadors are serving in overseas postings; and of these how many have completed the extensive level language qualification which is linked to additional remuneration. [87187]

Mr Bellingham: There are 142 bilateral heads of mission serving in overseas postings: 105 ambassadors and 37 high commissioners. Of the 142, 96 have been identified as having a language requirement and 72 have qualified in the necessary Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) language exams. Of the 72 bilateral heads of mission with exam records, 22 have passed the FCO extensive exam, CEFR level C2, the most advanced level of fluency. All FCO officers serving overseas in speaker slots (confidence, operational or extensive) are entitled to claim additional remuneration for the duration of their overseas posting, provided they have passed the appropriate examination.

Kashmir: Conflict Prevention

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the South Asia Conflict Prevention Programme has spent in Kashmir in each year since 2007. [87079]

Alistair Burt: A total of £1,030,383 has been spent on Kashmir from the South Asia Conflict Pool since 2007. This is broken down as follows:

	£
2007-08	58,170
2008-09	293,528
2009-10	192,064
2010-11:	486,621

The fluctuations in each year are due to differences in the number of project applications that are approved and completed in each financial year. The conflict pool is the mechanism by which the Government allocate resources for discretionary conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacekeeping activities and is managed jointly by the Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence.

Conflict Pool activity does not contradict the long standing position of the UK on Kashmir; that it is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting resolution, taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. It is not for the UK to prescribe a solution to the situation in Kashmir or to mediate in finding one.

Kidnapping

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department have been kidnapped whilst on official business overseas in each of the last 10 years. [87561]

Mr Bellingham: There have been no Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials kidnapped while on official business overseas in the last 10 years. However, two Foreign FCO officials posted to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia were kidnapped in 2007 while on unofficial (private) travel. They were released after being held for 12 days.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on negotiation with overseas kidnappers. [87571]

Alistair Burt: We are prepared to talk to anyone who is in a position to help ensure the swift and safe release of a hostage. We do so in a way that is consistent with our long-standing policy of not making or facilitating substantive concessions to hostage-takers. We maintain this policy because we believe that to make substantive concessions such as paying ransoms would reward the act of hostage-taking and encourage future kidnaps of British nationals.

Lord's Resistance Army

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the Lord's Resistance Army's activities in *(a)* the Central African Republic, *(b)* the Democratic Republic of Congo, *(c)* South Sudan and *(d)* Uganda. [86876]

Mr Bellingham: We receive regular reports on the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) from our diplomatic missions covering these countries, and through bodies such as the UN.

The most credible recent information suggests that 250 to 300 LRA fighters remain, scattered in small units across the region. While its numbers have been much reduced over the past decade because of military action (led by Uganda) and progress with demobilisation and repatriation under UN auspices in some areas, the LRA remains a destabilising force and a threat to civilian populations.

Nigeria: Foreign Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the UK's relationship with Nigeria; and if he will make a statement. [87568]

Mr Bellingham: The UK enjoys good relations with Nigeria, including through historic, cultural and economic ties. Our mission in Nigeria is one of the largest in sub-Saharan Africa, with a high commission in Abuja and a deputy high commission in Lagos. The Prime Minister visited Nigeria in July 2011, accompanied by the Minister of State for Trade and investment, my noble Friend, Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, and the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), to develop and promote our relationship. The key elements of this are boosting bilateral trade, investment and growth; encouraging good governance and democratic practice; aiding development; and supporting Nigerian security architecture to combat both national and international threats. The bilateral communiqué from the Prime Minister's visit sets out the critical parts of the British Government's policy towards Nigeria. It can be found online at:

www.number10.gov.uk/news/communique-on-nigeria-trade-mission/

Nigeria: Kidnapping

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens have been kidnapped in Nigeria in each of the last five years. [87565]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office cannot provide an exact figure as not every case is brought to our attention, but our records show the number of kidnap and abductions involving British nationals in Nigeria in the past five years as follows:

	Number
2006	14
2007	8
2008	5
2009	4
2010	2
2011	3

Saudi Arabia: Human Rights

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the most recent report by Amnesty International on human rights violations in Saudi Arabia; and if he will make a statement. [86950]

Alistair Burt: The Amnesty International report on Saudi Arabia summarises the current human rights situation in Saudi Arabia. It covers the draft anti-terror law, detentions and trials and freedom of expression. Our embassy in Riyadh has been engaged in a dialogue with the Saudi Arabian Government on these issues for some time. There is widespread acceptance in the Saudi Government and Saudi human rights organisations that the draft anti-terror law is unsuitable in its present form: the current draft is extremely unlikely to pass into law. Our embassy has raised the issue of arbitrary detentions with the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice and has been given permission to attend a forthcoming terror trial.

We have asked the Saudi authorities for more information with regard to the case referred to in the report which concerns 16 men convicted under anti-terror legislation to sentences ranging from five to 30 years, before we determine our next course of action. Freedom of expression concerns largely relate to the periods of unrest in the Eastern Province this year. Following the most recent outbreak of unrest in November, we note the Saudi Arabian Government issued a statement that security forces have been instructed to exercise restraint. We welcome the willingness of Saudi Arabian human rights organisations to engage with Amnesty on human rights concerns, which will raise awareness of the progress made by Saudi Arabia to date and give greater clarity on the requirements for further reform.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Saudi Arabia on human rights. [87448]

Alistair Burt: I discussed human rights in Saudi Arabia during my visit there on 26-27 April 2011, when I met Dr Bandar Al-Aiban, chairman of the Saudi Arabian Human Rights Commission, an organisation that works closely with the Saudi Arabian Government on human rights issues. I had a frank and honest discussion with Dr Al-Aiban, making no secret of the UK's concerns on the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia. The treatment of women, the application of the death penalty and the status of foreign workers were all raised. On 5 July, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), met the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister, Prince Saud, to discuss a range of issues, including women's rights. I travelled to Saudi Arabia on 23 November and discussed a wide range of human rights issues. In addition, our ambassador and the embassy team in Riyadh have raised human rights concerns with the Saudi Arabian Government, bilaterally and through the European Union.

Sikhs

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to meet representatives of the Sikh community to discuss the case of Professor Darinderpal Singh Bhullar. [87201]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I have no plans at present to meet representatives of the Sikh community to discuss Mr Bhullar's case. However, we continue to follow Mr Bhullar's case closely and have made clear to the Indian authorities our concerns about the possible resumption of executions in India, which would end their seven-year de facto moratorium on the death penalty.

Somalia: Kidnapping

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department is taking steps to reduce instances of kidnapping of British citizens in *(a)* Somalia and *(b)* other developing countries. [87556]

Alistair Burt: The safety of British nationals abroad is of paramount concern for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We provide information through our travel advice to help British nationals make informed decisions about their safety when travelling abroad. Where we assess that there is a specific threat of kidnap in a country, we will advise accordingly. We currently advise against all travel to Somalia. We maintain a policy of not paying ransoms to terrorists, as to pay ransoms would reward the act of hostage-taking and encourage future kidnaps of British nationals.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of British citizens being kidnapped in Somalia in each of the last 10 years. [87557]

Alistair Burt: We do not have an exact figure as not every case is brought to our attention, but our records show the number of kidnaps and abductions involving British nationals in Somalia as follows:

	Number
2001	0
2002	0
2003	0
2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	0
2008	2
2009	2
2010	1
2011	1

Somalia: Piracy

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the international community of piracy off the coast of Somalia in terms of *(a)* financial losses borne by shipping companies and *(b)* expenditure on military and naval operations. [86160]

Mr Bellingham: The turnover of the British shipping industry is worth £10.7 billion of our national GDP. Nearly $1 trillion of trade to and from Europe travelled through the Gulf of Aden in 2008 and this is the second busiest international trade route in the world. One World Future has estimated that piracy could be costing the global economy up to $12 billion a year in direct costs and indirect costs such as increased insurance premiums.

There has been no estimate of the international community's total expenditure on counter-piracy operations. Expenditure on military and naval operations is borne by the contributing state. For UK contributions, the cost for counter-piracy operations is a component of the annual operating costs of the Royal Navy, on which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office holds no data. The average annual running costs of the EU's Operation Atalanta are €8 million per year, of which the UK contributes on average £700,000 per year.

The British Government are playing a leading role in the counter-piracy operations at sea, and leading international work with regional countries to build penal, judicial and law enforcement capacities in support, with more than 1,000 pirates now in custody. The first line of defence remains self-defence measures by ships to minimise the risk of a successful hijack. But the long-term solution lies on land, with rule of law. increased stability and economic development.

South Sudan: Equality

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote equality in South Sudan. [87558]

Mr Bellingham: As a new nation state, South Sudan has the opportunity to put gender equality at the heart of its developing institutions. In addition to the Department for International Development's work, the British embassy is supporting women's active participation in peace-building and stabilisation initiatives, in particular, the mainstreaming of gender in South Sudan's police and security sector reform. There are some positive indicators of success, for example the fact that women police officers represent 50% of the police force in some of South Sudan's states.

However, women are still under-represented in many areas of government and we are encouraging the Government of South Sudan to make it a priority to increase their involvement.

South Sudan: Foreign Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the UK's relations with South Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [87559]

Mr Bellingham: The Government are committed to supporting South Sudan to become a viable and peaceful state, underpinned by good governance, respect for human rights and an environment in which humanitarian assistance can reach all that need it. We are working closely with the Government in South Sudan and with our international partners in pursuit of those goals.

We are concerned that progress is endangered by continuing internal conflicts as well as tensions with Sudan. We urge the Governments of South Sudan and Sudan to resolve their outstanding issues peacefully and are supporting the mediation efforts. We are also providing funding and support to conflict resolution within South Sudan.

The British Government are providing over £90 million a year for the next four years to help the people of South Sudan. This funding will support international efforts to promote peace and stability in South Sudan. Specifically, our assistance will help build more accountable, inclusive and transparent government; deliver basic services such as education, clean water and healthcare; support economic growth; provide humanitarian relief; and improve security and access to justice.

Sri Lanka: Foreign Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the UK's relations with Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [87570]

Alistair Burt: The UK has a long and historic relationship with Sri Lanka and we continue to work with all interested parties on the shared objective of achieving lasting peace. The UK believes that the best way to achieve lasting and equitable peace and reconciliation in Sri Lanka is through an inclusive political solution that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict and takes into account the legitimate grievances and aspirations of all Sri Lanka's communities.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Maria Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department have worked on the proposed reform of air passenger duty. [87317]

Miss Chloe Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Central Ayrshire (Mr Donohoe) on 13 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 533W.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to make further changes to the structure of air passenger duty up to 2015. [87318]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government set out their plans for the structure of air passenger duty in their response to consultation published on 6 December.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the analysis of the costs and benefits of air passenger duty to the UK economy that his Department undertook to inform his response to the consultation on the reform of air passenger duty. [87319]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government received over 500 responses to the air passenger duty (APD) consultation, including analytical reports. Although the Government do not generally publish responses to consultations or the detailed policy advice to Ministers, the consultation document published in March 2011 recognised the important contribution of the aviation sector to the UK economy, while stressing the need to maintain revenues from the aviation sector. Decisions on the future structure of APD were taken in that context.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons retention of a four band air passenger duty structure was not an option in his consultation document on reform of air passenger duty. [87406]

Miss Chloe Smith: The consultation document on air passenger duty published at Budget 2011 included the base-case option of retaining the existing four band air passenger duty structure.

Business: Government Assistance

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in which month businesses will start to receive investments through the funds in which the Government will invest in partnership with other investors. [87140]

Mr Hoban: The Government announced at the Autumn Statement that they will make available an initial £1 billion to invest through non-bank lending channels, through a Business Finance Partnership. This will focus initially on co-investment in loan funds that lend directly to mid-sized businesses in the UK.

The Government published a document asking for expressions of interest in managing this co-investment on 6 December, and intend to issue a further, detailed specification in early 2012, and to request proposals to manage these funds. The Government intend to commit their first funding through the Business Finance Partnership in spring 2012.

The month in which the first loans will be made to businesses by these funds will depend upon the length of time taken for fund managers to confirm private sector co-investment, and to identify suitable lending opportunities.

Carbon Sequestration

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the economic effect over the period to 2030 of a delay in the carbon capture storage programme until *(a)* 2016, *(b)* 2017, *(c)* 2018, *(d)* 2019 and *(e)* 2020 in (i) each region of England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland. [86966]

Charles Hendry: I have been asked to reply.

On 1 December DECC published The Carbon Plan which sets out the Government's plans for achieving the emission reductions committed to in the first four carbon budgets, consistent with meeting the 2050 target.

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/carbon_plan/carbon_plan.aspx

The scenarios modelled in this plan show that by 2030 new nuclear could contribute 10 to 15 GW, with up to 20 GW achievable if build rates are higher; fossil fuel generation with CCS could contribute as much as 10 GW; and renewable electricity could deliver anywhere between 35 and 5 GW—depending on assumptions about costs and build rates. However, it is too early to predict which will be the most cost-effective decarbonisation route for the power sector.

The CCS programme is currently being designed and will be launched as soon as possible. It will only be possible to determine the regional impact of the CCS programme once the selection process for new projects has been completed and the location of projects is known.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effect of a delay to the carbon capture storage programme on employment in *(a)* each region of England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [86967]

Charles Hendry: I have been asked to reply.

The CCS programme is currently being designed and will be launched as soon as possible. It will only be possible to determine the regional impact of the CCS programme on employment once the selection process for new projects has been completed and the location of projects is known.

Care Quality Commission: Pay

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many special severance payments have been notified to HM Treasury by the Care Quality Commission in each of the last three years. [87141]

Danny Alexander: HM Treasury received two special severance payment cases from the Care Quality Commission in 2011, three in 2010 and one in 2009.

Cash Dispensing

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* senior officials in his Department have had with (i) the British Banking Association, (ii) Lloyds Bank, (iii) Barclays and (iv) Royal Bank of Scotland to discuss changes to use of cash point machines; and if he will make a statement. [87134]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with, and receive representations from, a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policy making process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Departmental Civil Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83896]

Miss Chloe Smith: There were no legal proceedings brought against the Treasury by organisations that have received funding from it.

Departmental Internet

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will ensure that his Department's website is updated to include meetings he and Ministers in his Department have had since March 2011. [86175]

Miss Chloe Smith *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* Details of ministerial meetings with external organisations held since March 2011 are available on the HM Treasury website at the following address:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

Departmental Judicial Review

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what applications for judicial review have been made against his Department *(a)* in the last Parliament and *(b)* since May 2010; whether each such application (i) succeeded, (ii) failed and (iii) remains pending; what legal costs were incurred by his Department for each such application; in each failed application whether he applied for costs against the applicant and whether they were (A) awarded and (B) paid; whether his Department (1) paid for and (2) offered to pay for the legal costs incurred by each such applicant; and what the total cost to the public purse was of payment of the legal costs for each such applicant. [80719]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Treasury does not keep a central record of the information that has been requested and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the figure for the total amount spent on legal services for the financial year 2010-11was £3,945,452.98. All recorded cases, including judicial reviews, are a matter of public record and are published widely, including online, for example on the website of the British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII).

Departmental Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were working in his Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87340]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Treasury undertakes an analysis of its work force on a monthly basis at the end of each month. The number of people who were working in HMT on 30 April 2010 and 30 November 2011 was 1,364.09 full-time equivalents (FTE) and 1,132.25 FTE respectively.

Departmental Publications

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* leaflets, *(b)* posters and *(c)* reports his Department has published since May 2010; how much each cost; and which company (i) published and (ii) designed each. [82993]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Treasury has not produced any leaflets or posters since May 2010.

Since May 2010, the Treasury has published around 199 documents which are all available on its website. The Stationery Office are used to publish House of Commons and Command Papers. All documents published by both TSO and the Treasury are designed and typeset by the in-house team at the Treasury.

It is not always possible to separate out the exact costs of a specific publication from overall publications costs. In line with wider Government practice, any individual publishing projects exceeding £25,000 are listed separately on the Treasury website.

Domestic Visits: Schools

Hilary Benn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is his Department's policy that when an official from his Department visits a school the local education authority is informed in advance. [87061]

Miss Chloe Smith: Her Majesty's Treasury does not have a standard policy about who should be informed when its officials visit a school. Visits are handled on a case by case basis.

Economic Situation

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of *(a)* the Royal Wedding of April 2011, *(b)* the industrial action of November 2011, *(c)* the winter weather of December 2010 and *(d)* Her Majesty's Jubilee celebrations holiday in 2012. [87457]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Office for National Statistics is responsible for compiling statistics on the economy such as gross domestic product (GDP). In background briefing the ONS have provided their assessment of the effects on GDP of some of these events.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

John Healey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many policyholders have received payments from the Equitable Life Payment Scheme since June; how many payments have been made each month since June; and of what amounts. [87186]

Mr Hoban: The scheme will be publishing a report in the new year on the volumes and values of payments made.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Equitable Life policyholders had *(a)* received payments under the compensation scheme and *(b)* been contacted regarding compensation on the most recent date for which figures are available; what information his Department holds on the timetable for payments to be made under the compensation scheme; what steps have been taken to prioritise elderly policyholders; and if he will make a statement. [87281]

Mr Hoban: The scheme will be publishing a report in the new year on the progress of the scheme and the volumes and values of payments made.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Executives

John Healey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who the most senior official is in charge of the Equitable Life Payment Scheme. [87190]

Mr Hoban: The scheme is delivered by NS&I on HM Treasury's behalf. The most senior official at the Treasury in charge of the scheme is the Director Business and International Tax.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what calculations his Department makes to ascertain the effect of levels of fuel duty on low income households. [86871]

Miss Chloe Smith: At Autumn Statement 2011, the Government published their latest distributional analysis of the expected impact of announced government measures on household incomes, split by direct taxes, indirect taxes and tax credits and benefits. This analysis includes the impact of the delay to the January 2012 fuel duty increase to August and the cancellation of the August 2012 increase. This document can be found on the Treasury's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/as2011_documents.htm

Charts 1.A and 1.B in this document show that the top income decile sees the largest reduction in income, both in cash terms and as a percentage of net income, and that cash losses are nearly 10 times that of the bottom decile.

Financial Ombudsman Service: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff the Financial Ombudsman Service employed in 2010-11; how many it plans to employ in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [86867]

Mr Hoban: The matters raised are for the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS), whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I have asked the FOS to write to the hon. Member with the information requested. A copy of the response will be placed in the Library of the House.

Financial Services: EU Action

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer *(a)* how many and *(b)* which of the current EU proposals on financial services he considers to pose a potential risk to the UK financial services sector. [87329]

Mr Hoban: The UK is continuing to lead international efforts to reform the financial sector, and effective EU legislation is essential in meeting our commitments. We have previously made clear our concerns with certain provisions of some EU proposals in this area—such as the maximum harmonised approach in the Capital requirements directive (CRD4) and third country access provisions across a range of dossiers including the European market Infrastructure regulation (EMIR) and the markets in financial instruments directive (MiFID).

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of *(a)* how many and *(b)* which current EU proposals on financial services he has written to the European Commission due to a potentially adverse effect on the UK financial services sector; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence. [87330]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers have regular discussions with the Commission on a wide variety of topics. As was the case with previous Administrations, we do not

provide a running commentary on the details of these negotiations as it could prejudice development of effective Government policy. We have clearly set out the Government's concerns on certain aspects of Commission proposals on financial sector regulation to the president, other Commissioners and senior Commission officials in both correspondence and bilateral meetings in 2011.

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of which current EU proposals on financial services regulation he has received representations identifying them as potentially damaging to the UK financial industry from *(a)* the British Bankers Association, *(b)* the Mayor of London, *(c)* organisations within the City of London, *(d)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(e)* representatives of RBS, Lloyds TSB, Barclays or HSBC banks. [87331]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Households: Personal Savings

Hazel Blears: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he plans to take steps to increase the household savings ratio; [87285]

(2) what estimate he has made of the long-term household savings ratio *(a)* in the North West and *(b)* nationally; [87286]

(3) whether his Department has undertaken a comparative assessment of the UK household savings ratio and that in other G20 countries; [87287]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of people in the North West who have no personal savings. [87288]

Mr Hoban: The Government aim to achieve strong, sustainable, and balanced growth, underpinned by a credible deficit reduction plan. Growth and stability will provide a context in which it is easier for households to make long-term savings and investment decisions.

In the long term the Government want a strong saving culture to be a foundation for investment and sustainable growth. The Government have introduced a number of savings policies to meet their objectives. These include, but are not limited to:

improving financial access by introducing the Money Advice Service and commissioning industry to develop a suite of simple financial products;

indexing the amount that can be paid into ISAs each year;

introducing junior ISAs; and

introducing regulation to require employers to automatically enrol employees into a workplace pension and make a minimum contribution.

The OECD provides details of the saving ratio for a number of countries. The UK saving ratio for the 2nd quarter of 2011 was 7.4%. It is difficult to compare between countries due to methodological differences.

The saving ratio is not produced at a regional level. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) projects the savings ratio for the UK as a whole to average around 6% over the next four years.

The Government use survey evidence to provide statistics about personal savings, to inform the development of policy. The Family Resources Survey has data for savings and investments of households, including regional analysis. The most recent release can be found here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/frs/

Infrastructure

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date his Department first informed Ministers in the Welsh Government of his plans to publish the National Infrastructure Plan 2011. [86698]

Danny Alexander: Treasury Ministers meet with Welsh Government Ministers on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues including infrastructure.

Money Advice Service: Pay

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* written communications he has had with (i) the Financial Services Authority, (ii) the Office of Fair Trading and (iii) the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the remuneration package to the board of directors and chief executive of the Money Advice Service. [87058]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

The Government are committed to public sector pay restraint, and believe that senior managers should show leadership in this area. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury approves any civil service appointments in areas under ministerial control for those earning over £142,500.

The Financial Services Authority is, however, responsible for appointing the chief executive and board directors of the Money Advice Service and setting the terms of the appointments.

Public Expenditure

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Barnett consequential funding has been made available to each of the devolved Administrations as a result of expenditure to increase passenger capacity on trains in England in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and how much he expects to make available in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15. [86695]

Danny Alexander: The devolved Administrations received Barnett consequentials of the Department for Transport settlements in both the 2007 and 2010 spending reviews. Barnett consequentials are calculated at a departmental level in spending reviews so it is not possible to identify expenditure on rail.

In the Autumn Statement, the following Barnett consequentials were given to the devolved Administrations in respect of rail infrastructure programmes:

	2012-13	2013-14	£ million 2014-15
Scotland	1.2	1.2	4.8
Wales	0.0	0.0	0.0
Northern Ireland	0.4	0.4	1.6

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Barnett consequentials will be for each devolved Administration as a result of the *(a)* National Infrastructure Plan 2011, (B) Youth Contract and *(c)* Regional Growth Fund. [86719]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* The Barnett consequentials resulting from the *(a)* National Infrastructure Plan 2011, *(b)* Youth Contract and *(c)* Regional Growth Fund are set out in the following table:

		2012-13	2013-14	£ million 2014-15
National Infrastructure Plan	Scotland	7.4	43.2	69.8
	Wales	3.6	24.2	37.5
	Northern Ireland	2.5	14.5	23.4
Youth Contract	Scotland	8.1	6.9	6.9
	Wales	4.7	4.0	4.0
	Northern Ireland	10.3	8.7	7.5
Regional Growth Fund	Scotland	6.0	33.6	60.4
	Wales	3.5	19.4	34.8
	Northern Ireland	2.0	11.3	20.3

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of the measures included in table 2.3 of his Autumn Statement will receive new funding announced in the Autumn Statement; and in which years. [87056]

Danny Alexander: All measures listed in table 2.3 of the Autumn Statement will receive new funding, in the years set out in the table.

Announcements on mobile network coverage, high performance computing, the National Graphene Institute and Growing Places had been made at party conferences. Housing measures were announced in the housing strategy. All other measures were new autumn statement announcements.

Regional Growth Fund

Owen Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the additional funding for the Regional Growth Fund announced in the Autumn Statement is to be allocated. [86859]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* The Autumn Statement 2011 increased the Regional Growth Fund by £1 billion, plus Barnett consequentials for the devolved Administrations. The fund will continue to allocate funding to projects which create jobs, secure private sector investment and support areas currently dependent on the public sector. There will be an additional focus on bids from the eight core cities.

Tax Credit

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to his Autumn Statement, how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households will be affected by (i) the freezing of working tax credit and (ii) the removal of planned over-indexation of child tax credits. [87048]

Mr Gauke: There are estimated to be 4.5 million households affected in 2012-13 by these changes; around 2.3 million couples, and 2.2 million single adults.

Of the 4.5 million households, there are estimated to be 1.5 million households affected by the CTC change only, 2.8 million affected by both WTC and CTC changes, and 0.2 million affected by the WTC change only.

Taxation: Aviation

Maria Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the level of aviation taxes in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the EU and *(c)* G20 countries; [87481]

(2) if he will publish his analysis of the international competitiveness of UK air passenger duty that informed his response to the consultation on reform of air passenger duty. [87482]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Government monitor aviation taxes across a wide range of countries. The Government received over 500 responses to the consultation, including general analytical reports commissioned by stakeholders. Information on the aviation taxes of other EU member states and other G20 countries is published and freely available. Unlike many other countries, the UK does not apply VAT on flights and aviation fuel for commercial flights is not taxed.

VAT: Press

Helen Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what definition of *(a)* newspapers, *(b)* magazines and *(c)* books is used by HM Revenue and

Customs to determine whether items should be subject to the zero rate of VAT; [87180]

(2) what the estimated revenue from VAT would be if it were charged at *(a)* 5% and (b) 20% for newspapers and magazines. [87181]

Mr Gauke: There is no definition in VAT law of what are newspapers, magazines and books. HMRC therefore use the terms in their ordinary, everyday sense. The description of each term can be found in chapter 3 of HMRC Public Notice 701/10—"Zero-rating of books etc".

No estimate has been made of the revenue from value added tax if it were charged at 5% or 20% for newspapers and magazines.

An estimate of the cost of the zero-rating of books, newspapers and magazines is published in Table 1.5 "Main Tax Expenditures and Reliefs" on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.xls

However, this estimate does not account for any behavioural effects (the resulting fall in demand) that would result from changes to the rate of value added tax.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Electronic Tagging

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Attorney-General if the Crown Prosecution Service will ask magistrates to ensure that overnight curfew orders for repeat juvenile offenders are accompanied by electronic tagging orders. [87450]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service seeks electronic monitoring to reinforce a curfew condition where it is necessary to prevent the youth from committing further offences while on bail or on remand to local authority accommodation; and, the statutory criteria for its use are satisfied. The court cannot order electronic monitoring unless the youth offending team have informed the court that electronic monitoring is suitable for the youth.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Attorney-General what guidance he provides to the Crown Prosecution Service on people who might be involved in illegal activities but are also the victims of human trafficking. [87623]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) issued revised policy guidance to prosecutors on 1 June 2011 on the prosecution of defendants (children and adults) charged with offences who might be trafficked victims. The policy advises prosecutors that they should be alert to the possibility that the suspect may be a victim of trafficking in certain types of cases and advises on the steps they should take when dealing with them.

The policy has changed from a test that a suspect is a credible trafficked victim to one where there is a credible suspicion that a suspect might have been trafficked. Where young people are involved and where there is a credible suspicion that a child or youth might have been trafficked and exploited through criminal activity, that may provide a defence of duress. Evidence of exploitation overrides the need to prove the means.

This guidance has been published more widely (to the Law Society and through presentations/seminars with barristers) to ensure a wider understanding of this issue.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate *(a)* the carbon dioxide emissions likely to be generated by the number of additional UK residents projected by 2033 and *(b)* renewable energy capacity needed to abate and maintain current total emissions. [86820]

Gregory Barker: The latest official Government projections by DECC for greenhouse gas emissions including carbon dioxide were published in October 2011:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/ec_social_res/analytic_projs/en_emis_projs/en_emis_projs.aspx

These provide projections for the period up to 2030. Projections beyond 2030 are not available. The projections assume that the UK population increases by 6.8 million between 2010 and 2030. This is the ONS principal 2008-based population projection, low migration variant. The 2008-based population projections were the latest available at the time of publication. Projections under the latest ONS 2010-based population projections are not available.

Over the period 2010 to 2030 emissions are projected to fall by 168 $MtCO_2e$ from 586 $MtCO_2e$ to 418 $MtCO_2e$. Carbon dioxide emissions are projected to fall by 146 $MtCO_2$ from 496 $MtCO_2$ to 350 $MtCO_2$ over the same period. The projected fall is attributable to a range of factors including policy impacts on energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy.

Government have not looked at the amount of renewable electricity required to maintain current total emissions given the changes in population. However, under the central scenario assumptions in the emissions projections, renewable energy demand is projected to increase by 23 Mega tonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe) from 8.2 Mtoe to 30.9 Mtoe between 2010 and 2030. Renewables electricity generation capacity is projected to increase by 33 GW from 9 GW to 42 GW over the same period. This increase, together with other policy initiatives, is projected to be sufficient to maintain emissions. As explained in the report, the generation and capacity mix is dependent on a number of assumptions. Other assumptions would lead to projected electricity demand being met by different capacity and generation mixes. Modelling developed for the Carbon Plan published in December 2012 shows that by 2030 total renewable capacity could be between 35 and 50 GW under an assumed population growth of 6.8 million. The Carbon Plan can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/carbon_plan/carbon_plan.aspx

Special Advisers: Electronic Equipment

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his special advisers have been provided with *(a)* a mobile phone, *(b)* a laptop computer, *(c)* an iPad or other electronic tablet device, *(d)* use of a Government car and *(e)* an expense account. [86625]

Gregory Barker: Special advisers have been provided with a BlackBerry and a departmental laptop. They have not been provided with an iPad or other electronic tablet device, the use of a Government car, or with an expense account.

Departmental Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the annual staffing costs are of *(a)* the private office of the Minister of State for Climate Change, *(b)* the private office of the Minister of State for Energy and *(c)* his private office. [86610]

Gregory Barker: Staffing and salary information has been published and details can be found at:

http://reference.data.gov.uk/gov-structure/organogram/?dept=decc&post=1

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 567W, on departmental manpower, what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* salary range is of each additional member of staff employed by his Department in the period 31 May 2010 to 30 November 2011. [87177]

Gregory Barker: From 30 May 2010 to 30 November 2011 the numbers, grades and salary ranges of all civil servants, joining DECC, are shown in the following tables.

Grade	*Number*
Administrative officer	32.74
Executive officer	48.89
Higher executive officer	85
Fast Stream	64
Senior executive officer	54.96
Grade 7	117.07
Grade 6	48.97
SCS payband 1	17
SCS payband 2	8

The numbers above, which are shown as full-time equivalents (FTE), show all civil servants who have joined DECC either as fixed term appointments (including apprenticeships), permanent appointments, transfers from other Government Departments or loans from other Government Departments. This does not take account of staff who have left DECC in the same period.

The staff salary ranges are as follows:

London base salary ranges

Grade	*Minimum*	£ *Maximum*
AA	18,567	19,712
AO	21,250	22,646
EO	24,992	29,060
HEO	29,261	34,424
SEO	34,713	41,851
Grade 7	46,975	56,597
Grade 6	56,707	68,322
Fast Stream	27,000	33,654

National base salary ranges

Grade	*Minimum*	£ *Maximum*
AA	14,567	15,712
AO	17,534	19,146
EO	21,250	25,060
HEO	25,261	30,424
SEO	30,713	37,851
Grade 7	42,975	52,597
Grade 6	52,707	64,322
Fast Stream	25,000	29,654

SCS base salary payscales

Grade	*Minimum*	£ *Maximum*
SCS Payband 1	58,200	117,800
SCS Payband 2	82,900	162,500

The job titles of staff are not held in central electronic files. To gather this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Pay

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 568W, on departmental pay, what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* salary range is of each member of staff employed by his Department who receives a salary of more than £65,000 per year. [87178]

Gregory Barker: Upon further examination, the number of civil servants employed by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) as at 30 September 2011 and who receive a salary of more than £65,000 is as shown in the following table below and not as previously stated on 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 568W.

Number	*Grade*
Grade 6	16
SCS Payband 1 (Deputy Director)	45
SCS Payband 2 (Director)	21
SCS Payband 3 (Director General)	2
Permanent Secretary	1

The staff salary ranges are as follows:

London base salary ranges

Grade	*Minimum*	£ *Maximum*
Grade 6	56,707	68,322

National base salary ranges

Grade	*Minimum*	£ *Maximum*
Grade 6	52,707	64,322

SCS base salary pay scales

Grade	*Minimum*	*Maximum*
SCS Payband 1	58,200	117,800
SCS Payband 2	82,900	162,500
SCS Payband 3	101,500	208,100
Permanent Secretary	141,800	277,300

The job titles of staff are not held in central electronic files. To gather this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Responsibilities

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what diary engagements he undertook on the afternoon of 31 October 2011. [86861]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 317W.

Energy Supply

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the future ownership of *(a)* nuclear and *(b)* renewable energy power stations and facilities currently proposed or under construction; and if he will make a statement. [83549]

Charles Hendry: To date, three energy consortia have announced plans to build up to 16 gigawatts (GW) of new nuclear in the UK:

EDF intends to build four new EPR reactors (amounting to 6.4 GW) at Hinkley Point and Sizewell and have gained permission from the local authority to begin preliminary works at Hinkley Point;

Horizon Nuclear Power (a joint venture between RWE and E.ON) intends to build at least 6 GW of new nuclear capacity at Wylfa and Oldbury; and

NuGeneration, a consortium of GDF SUEZ and Iberdrola has set out plans to build up to 3.6 GW of new nuclear capacity at Sellafield.

DECC collects information from local planning authorities and renewable energy developers on all renewable energy projects over 0.01 MW at each stage of the planning system, from proposed projects to operational sites. Monthly updates are available at:

https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/planning-database

This includes the name of the applicant or contractor, location, installed capacity and planning status.

The Energy Research Partnership, which is chaired by the Department's chief scientific adviser, David Mackay, is also undertaking work on a Nuclear Fission Technology Roadmap, setting out potential technology, skills and research path to 2050. We expect this work to report in February and to feed into a the ongoing Nuclear Technology Innovation Needs Assessment (TINA) being undertaken by DECC. We expect our TINA work to conclude in spring. Other TINAs are also under way for a range of low carbon energy technologies, including key renewable generation technologies.

In "Enabling the Transition to a Green Economy" (the green economy roadmap), published in August, the Government announced a new 'skills for a green economy' group of Sector Skills Councils and others to help businesses understand and address green skills needs.[1]

[1] The project report setting out the evidence underpinning the proposals (from BIS, DECC and DEFRA working together) is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/s/11-1315-skills-for-a-green-economy.pdf

Energy: Meters

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account his Department's consultation on smart meters and methods of connecting them will take of the difficulties encountered in the provision of broadband to rural areas. [87158]

Charles Hendry: The purpose of the procurement processes for the data and communication services is to evaluate the technical capability and value for money of proposed solutions. For communication services this will include assessing the proposed coverage, efficacy and viability of different technologies across Great Britain, including any particular challenges posed by rural areas.

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to assess *(a)* wireless, *(b)* cellular and *(c)* other options for the installation and subsequent operation of smart meters. [87159]

Charles Hendry: Our requirements for communication services to and from smart meters are technology neutral and we will assess the relative merits of the solutions that bidders propose through the procurement processes. We expect proposals based on a range of communications technologies and will evaluate the trade-offs between coverage, cost and scalability in order to determine the most advantageous overall solution.

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to consult the Welsh Government on technology for the operation of smart meters. [87168]

Charles Hendry: The Government published a consultation in August 2011 on their proposals to establish the technical specifications for smart metering equipment that suppliers will install in consumer premises. They informed the Welsh Government and other key stakeholders about the publication to ensure that they had an opportunity to respond. The Government are currently considering the responses to this consultation and will publish the updated technical specifications in early March. They will then notify the European Commission of the specifications and associated licence conditions, in accordance with the requirements of the Technical Standards and Regulations Directive. There are no plans for further consultation on the technical specifications.

Energy: Prisons

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 570W, on energy: prisons, what estimate he has made of the number of jobs supported by Government energy efficiency schemes in *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2013, *(c)* 2014 and *(d)* 2015; and which schemes will support those jobs. [87179]

Gregory Barker: As stated in my answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 570W, we estimate that Government programmes to promote energy efficiency in homes, businesses and the public sector will support 65,000 insulation sector jobs in 2015. This estimate relates specifically to the forthcoming Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation schemes. We have not made annualised estimates of energy efficiency sector jobs from 2012 to 2015.

Energy: Private Rented Housing

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what process his Department plans to follow to determine whether a landlord has carried out the maximum package of measures funded under the Green Deal or Energy Company Obligation for improving energy efficiency in housing under the provisions of the Energy Act 2011. [86976]

Gregory Barker: We expect the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) will be a key inspection mechanism as it will outline which measures have been installed in the property using the Green Deal and if there are remaining measures which could benefit from Green Deal finance. Local authorities, as the enforcing body for the private rented sector regulations, will have access to this information through the EPC database.

The regulations, including details of the enforcement mechanism, will be subject to a public consultation.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what measures he plans to put in place to protect tenants from eviction in cases where they request energy efficiency improvements. [86977]

Gregory Barker: The issue of retaliatory eviction in the context of the Green Deal was raised during the passage of the Energy Act. In response I established a working group to consider stakeholder concerns, and report to DECC and Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Ministers with recommendations. The report is due to be submitted to myself and the Minister for Housing and Local Government before Christmas.

Environment Protection: Economic Growth

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has made an estimate of the level of growth in the low carbon economy in each of the last 10 years. [85877]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has made no estimate of the level of growth in the low carbon economy in each of the last 10 years. However, independent studies commissioned by BIS and published by Innovas and K-Matrix estimate turnover in the Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services sector for the financial years 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10. The historic growth of turnover in the Low Carbon sub-sector over these years is as follows:

2007/08 to 2008/09—4.5%

2008/09 to 2009/10—4.3%

Environment Protection: Employment

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of people employed in the low carbon economy. [85878]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has made no recent estimate of the number of people employed in the low carbon economy. However, an independent report by K-Matrix, commissioned by BIS, estimates that employment in the Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services sector was approximately 914,000 in 2009/10. Employment in the Low Carbon sub-sector was estimated to be approximately 449,000 in 2009/10.

Forests: Developing Countries

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what agreements were made at the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban on reducing emissions from *(a)* aviation and *(b)* deforestation and forest degradation. [87291]

Gregory Barker: The conference in Durban agreed to continue consideration of issues related to addressing emissions from international aviation and maritime transport. While we would have preferred a decision of substance, this decision does mean that we can continue to press for international aviation emissions to be addressed through the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The decisions taken in Durban on reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD+) move us in the right direction, but we would have liked to see faster progress. Specifically, the decisions resolved some important technical issues on reference levels against which we will measure progress on REDD+, and how countries will provide information on biodiversity and social safeguards. Both of these are essential building blocks towards a functioning REDD+ mechanism. Donor and forest countries also committed to stepping up efforts to address deforestation in the Congo Basin.

Fuel Poverty: Cancer

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if his Department will provide assistance to cancer patients in fuel poverty to enable them to identify the most appropriate tariff for their energy supplies. [87709]

Gregory Barker: Helping all consumers, including those suffering from cancer, to find the most appropriate tariff is a key component of the Check Switch and Insulate to Save campaign that my Government launched alongside the energy suppliers, Citizens Advice, Consumer Focus, Age UK and Which? Further information on the campaign can be found via

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/N11/Newsroom/DG_199725

As announced at the consumer energy summit in October, we have reached a voluntary agreement under which energy suppliers will now provide their domestic customers with a "signpost" on bills to cheaper deals.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Energy Company Obligation will provide support for cancer patients who are in fuel poverty. [87710]

Gregory Barker: Eligibility for support through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is currently being consulted on.

Under our proposals, the ECO would provide support, such as heating and insulation measures, to low income and vulnerable households as part of Government's programme to tackle fuel poverty. This could include cancer patients provided they were in receipt of the qualifying means-tested benefits. Alongside the Green Deal, the ECO would also provide support to households in need of expensive measures, such as solid wall insulation. Government have not proposed any restrictions in eligibility for this element of ECO support.

G20

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what arrangements have been made for the meeting of the G20 energy ministers which the UK is hosting in 2012. [87086]

Charles Hendry: The UK will host the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) on 25 and 26 April 2012. Although the CEM brings together many of the G20 energy Ministers, it is a separate forum and not part of the G20.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change is working closely with the CEM Secretariat in the United States Department of Energy on the preparations for this two-day event that aims to secure practical progress on low carbon energy deployment by promoting international collaboration, and by bringing the public and private sectors together to share best practice.

Further information can be found at:

www.cleanenergyministerial.org

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* location and *(b)* agenda is of the meeting of the G20 energy ministers in April 2012 which the UK is hosting; what other arrangements have been made for the meeting; and if he will make a statement. [87087]

Charles Hendry: The UK will host the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) on 25-26 April 2012. Although the CEM brings together many of the G20 Energy Ministers, it is a separate forum and not part of the G20. The CEM will be held at Lancaster House in London.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change is working closely with the CEM Secretariat in the United States Department of Energy to prepare the agenda for the CEM to secure practical progress on low carbon energy deployment through discussion, for example on public and private finance for clean energy, on energy efficiency, and by building on the 11 international collaborations announced last year.

The agenda is due to be finalised at the preparatory meeting in Delhi on 2 and 3 February.

Green Deal Scheme

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether energy efficiency aggregators delivering the Green Deal will be eligible to receive support through the proposed capacity mechanism incentive for demand reduction measures as part of the Electricity Market Reform programme. [87292]

Gregory Barker: In the Electricity Market Reform White Paper "Planning our electric future: a White Paper for secure, affordable and low-carbon electricity"[1], DECC committed to assessing whether further steps are needed to improve the support and incentives for efficient use of electricity.

This assessment will look at what impact current policies have on electricity demand and whether there is a need for further measures to incentivise demand reduction—either within the Electricity Market Reform programme or elsewhere. This work will include a consideration of how any new measures would interact with existing policies such as the Green Deal.

In addition, in the Electricity Market Reform Technical Update, 'Planning our electric future: technical update'[2], DECC committed to ensuring that flexible, verifiable demand side response can participate in a capacity mechanism on a fair and equivalent basis to generation.

[1] http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/legislation/white_papers/emr_wp_2011/emr_wp_2011.aspx

[2] http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/meeting-energy-demand/energy-markets/3884-planning-electric-future-technical-update.pdf

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many companies have submitted a written expression of interest in becoming a Green Deal provider to his Department since the scheme was announced. [87407]

Gregory Barker: The Government have not requested expressions of interest from potential Green Deal providers. However Ministers and officials have frequent conversations and meetings with companies who are interested in entering the market to ensure they are fully informed of the requirements for being a provider and also to ensure that any concerns that they have are fed into policy development as appropriate.

Ministerial Meetings

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) for what reasons his Department has not published a quarterly list of ministerial meetings with external organisations for *(a)* April to June and *(b)* July to September 2011; [86528]

(2) when his Department expects to publish its quarterly list of ministerial meetings with external organisations for *(a)* April to June and *(b)* July to September 2011. [86529]

Gregory Barker: The ministerial meetings with external organisations for April to June 2011 have been published and details can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/registers.aspx

The list for July to September is being compiled and will be published in due course.

Natural Gas: Prices

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent comparative assessment he has made of the cost of domestic gas in the US and the UK; and if he will make a statement. [87510]

Charles Hendry: In 2010, the average cost of domestic gas (including taxes) in the UK was 4.15 pence per kWh, compared to 2.39 pence per kWh in the USA. Excluding taxes, the average cost of gas in 2010 was 3.95 pence per kWh in the UK and 2.28 pence per kWh in the USA.

One of the main reasons for the retail price differential is the higher wholesale price of gas in the UK compared to the US. The US has experienced substantial growth in gas production in recent years, primarily driven by exploitation of unconventional gas and therefore has little need for significant imports. Furthermore, a lack of export capacity means that the US is not currently well placed to sell gas to other markets. Conversely, geographical proximity and physical linkages (via pipelines) mean the UK is connected to European gas markets and the UK wholesale price is influenced by European wholesale prices.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

House of Commons Chamber

Mr Bone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many times he has attended the Chamber of the House since May 2010. [87622]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I spend as much time as necessary to carry out in full my official duties in Parliament.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether she receives any external funding for *(a)* her Ministerial office and *(b)* her advisers; and what the (i) source and (ii) amount is of any such funding. [77591]

Lynne Featherstone: As of 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office has been part of the Home Office and is no longer a separate Government Department. The information requested will be provided by the Minister for Immigration in response to your question to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many acres of agricultural land were used to supply biofuel for transport in the UK in each of the last 10 years; and how many tonnes of biofuel were produced on that land in each of those years. [87131]

Norman Baker: Estimates of land usage for biofuels are available from the introduction of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) in 2008.

This information is available in the RTFO administrator's reports to Parliament for 2008-09 and 2009-10 can be found online at

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/other/9780108508868/9780108508868.pdf

and

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/other/9780108509681/9780108509681.pdf

Article 22 of the Renewable Energy Directive requires all member states to report biennially on changes in land use associated with increased use of biomass from renewable sources. The first of these reports is due to be submitted to the Commission on 31 December 2011 and will be published in due course.

Bus Services: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the annual number of additional car journeys to take place attributable to *(a)* the end of concessionary coach travel funding and *(b)* reductions in funding from the Bus Service Operators Grant. [86850]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* A regulatory impact assessment on the ending of the concessionary coach scheme is available on the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/bus-service-operators-grant/

The Department for Transport has not estimated the number of additional car journeys which will take place following the reduction of Bus Service Operators Grant by 20% from April 2012.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport over what time frame she plans to allocate funding for the Better Bus Area Fund. [87493]

Norman Baker: The deadline for local authorities to submit bids for the Better Bus Area Fund is 24 February 2012. Award letters to successful authorities will be issued before the end of March 2012.

Ministerial Domestic Visits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions she visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [80844]

Norman Baker: The previous Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), made one visit to Wales in an official capacity. He made no visits to Scotland or Northern Ireland over the specified time scale.

The current Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has not made any visits to Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

I have made one visit to Scotland in the last 12 months, while the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning), has made two visits to Scotland, three visits to Wales and one visit to Northern Ireland in the last 12 months.

Official Photographs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to answer question 82566, on official photographs, tabled on 21 November 2011 for reply on 23 November 2011. [87574]

Norman Baker: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 15 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 844W.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Manpower

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff are employed in each regional office of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [87411]

Mike Penning: The following table provides the number of staff that are employed in each regional office.

Location	*Total*
Aberdeen	9
Bangor	12
Beverley	16
Birmingham	48
Borehamwood	31
Bournemouth	60
Brighton	18
Bristol	29
Cardiff	35
Carlisle	10
Chelmsford	55
Chester	17
Dundee	12
Edinburgh	26
Exeter	36
Glasgow	67
Inverness	8
Ipswich	19
Leeds	52
Lincoln	16
Maidstone	30
Manchester	68
Newcastle	48
Northampton	57
Norwich	16
Nottingham	50
Oxford	10
Peterborough	25
Portsmouth	22
Preston	63
Reading	23
Sheffield	25
Shrewsbury	18
Sidcup	85
Stockton	22
Swansea	30
Truro	12
Wimbledon	38
Worcester	25
Grand total	1,243

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: North-east England

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effects of proposals to close Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency regional enforcement offices on levels of unemployment in *(a)* the north-east and *(b)* Teesside. [87413]

Mike Penning: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) employs 48 staff in its Newcastle-upon-Tyne office, 22 in the Stockton office and 16 in Beverley. If these offices close as a result of the consultation on transforming the DVLA's services, all 86 jobs in this area could be at risk. Consultation with potentially affected staff has already begun and will include ways of avoiding or reducing redundancies as well as how to mitigate the consequences of any redundancies.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what services are delivered by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency regional offices in Scotland. [87025]

Mike Penning: The services delivered by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's local offices, including those in Scotland, comprise vehicle registration and licensing, tax disc distribution to motor dealers, trade licensing, vehicle inspections, personalised registrations, enforcement activity and driver services.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at how many locations in Scotland the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency shares office accommodation with other Government agencies. [87026]

Mike Penning: Three of the five local offices located in Scotland share office accommodation with other Government agencies. These are:

Aberdeen with the DWP;

Dundee with the HMRC (Scotland); and

Inverness with the Scottish Executive.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency offices in Scotland proposed for closure was funded through the private finance initiative. [87027]

Mike Penning: Property and facilities management at all five local offices located in Scotland is provided through a private finance initiative contract.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the staff *(a)* turnover and *(b)* absentee rate was at each Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency office in Scotland in each of the last five years. [87028]

Mike Penning: The following table provides the turnover and absentee rate for each of the five local offices in Scotland for the last five years:

Office	*Turnover*	*Percentage Absentee rate*
2006-07		
Aberdeen	46	4.6
Dundee	15	8.0
Edinburgh	3	10.7
Glasgow	22	11.1
Inverness	12	14.2
Total	20	—
2007-08		
Aberdeen	50	4.4
Dundee	15	1.6
Edinburgh	10	11.0
Glasgow	25	14.2
Inverness	37	17.1
Total	24	—
2008-09		
Aberdeen	45	2.4
Dundee	0	15.2
Edinburgh	14	3.0
Glasgow	15	9.2
Inverness	25	7.1
Total	16	—
2009-10		
Aberdeen	0	2.9
Dundee	27	3.2
Edinburgh	8	3.3
Glasgow	3	8.9
Inverness	80	6.1
Total	8	—
2010-11		
Aberdeen	9	4.8
Dundee	0	2.6
Edinburgh	0	0.6
Glasgow	11	6.6
Inverness	0	2.9
Total	7	—

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the running costs were of each Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) office in Scotland in each of the last five years; and what the fixed accommodation cash running costs of DVLA office buildings in Scotland were over each of the last five years. [87029]

Mike Penning: The information requested is not readily available and would incur disproportionate costs to gather. The following tables show the running costs for the five local offices situated in Scotland for the last two years.

Aberdeen	*2009-10*	*£000 2010-11*
Staff costs	259	247
Staff related costs	30	16
Rent	31	31
Service charge	26	15
Rates	11	11
Utilities	n/a	4
Unitary charge	7	8
Total	364	332

Dundee	*2009-10*	*£000 2010-11*
Staff costs	285	269
Staff related costs	12	6
Rent	27	27
Service charge	28	16
Rates	14	16
Utilities	n/a	4
Unitary charge	15	15
Total	381	353

Edinburgh	*2009-10*	*£000 2010-11*
Staff costs	561	567
Staff related costs	10	4
Rent	138	138
Service charge	57	49
Rates	56	40
Unitary charge	49	51
Total	871	849

Glasgow	*2009-10*	*£000 2010-11*
Staff costs	1,622	1,547
Staff related costs	45	46
Rent	307	307
Service charge	103	100
Rates	116	113
Utilities	n/a	16
Unitary charge	94	97
Total	2,287	2,226

Inverness	*2009-10*	*£000 2010-11*
Staff costs	171	178
Staff related costs	15	23
Rent	9	9
Service charge	12	17
Rates	5	5
Utilities	n/a	3

Inverness	2009-10	£000 2010-11
Unitary charge	9	9
Total	221	244

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average length of service is of staff currently employed by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency at each of its locations in Scotland. [87030]

Mike Penning: The information requested is listed as follows.

Aberdeen—The average service length of staff is 13 years and 7 months.

Dundee—The average service length of staff is 20 years and 7 months.

Edinburgh—The average service length of staff is 13 years and 7 months.

Glasgow—The average service length of staff is 10 years and 8 months.

Inverness—The average service length of staff is 9 years and 1 month.

Glasgow Crec—The average service length of staff is 11 years and 7 months.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with which estate partners the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency holds contracts relating to accommodation and facilities management for its regional offices in Scotland. [87031]

Mike Penning: All five local offices in Scotland are included in the private finance initiative contract DVLA has with Telereal Trillium.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has to transfer its delivery of services from Scotland to other parts of the UK; at what locations offices are being retained by the DVLA in Scotland; and what functions these offices will fulfil. [87032]

Mike Penning: The public consultation exercise on the way DVLA delivers its services, could result in all the services offered by local offices being centralised at Swansea and delivered electronically via phone, internet or through one or more intermediaries. This could mean that there would be no Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency local office remaining in Scotland beyond 2013.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on refitting, repairs and general maintenance of each Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency regional office in Scotland proposed for vacation or closure in each of the last five years. [87033]

Mike Penning: The information requested on repair and general maintenance costs is not readily available and would incur disproportionate costs to gather. The following table shows the cost of refitting the local offices in Scotland during the last five years. All this work took place during 2008-09.

2008-09	Refit (£)
Aberdeen	0
Dundee	481,431
Edinburgh	495,069
Glasgow	62,178
Inverness	0

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of her Department's liability for redundancy payments consequent upon the planned closure of each Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency office in Scotland. [87034]

Mike Penning: We have recently launched a consultation on a programme of work which will transform the way that the DVLA delivers its services to customers. This will be achieved by centralising services and providing much more choice and flexibility around how and when motorists deal with the DVLA. The proposals could deliver significant efficiencies with an estimated £28 million year on year savings.

However, no decisions about local office closure have yet been made.

The Department's potential liability for redundancy payments would be estimated to be in the region of £2.3 million for the local offices located in Scotland.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency offices in Scotland identified for vacation following the announcement of the rationalisation programme are *(a)* owned or *(b)* leased; what estimate her Department has made of the costs of relinquishing leases; and what estimate it has made of the cost of vacating those offices. [87035]

Mike Penning: No decisions about property vacation have yet been made.

All five local office properties in Scotland are leased. It is not expected that any costs would be incurred if the leases for these five local offices were relinquished.

The estimated dilapidation costs for vacating the offices would be:

	£
Aberdeen	31,000
Dundee	49,000
Edinburgh	111,000
Glasgow	225,000
Inverness	21,000

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the possible effects of the proposed closure of Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency offices in Scotland on the time taken to issue licences. [87036]

Mike Penning: There would be no degradation to the service offered. Customers would still be able to license online or by telephone. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is also proposing to increase the range and number of intermediaries that could offer these kinds of services.

Under the proposal customers in Scotland would be issued licences within the same timescale as the rest of Great Britain.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the proposed closure of Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency offices in Scotland. [87037]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport meets regularly with her ministerial colleagues but there has been no specific discussion on the proposed closure of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's offices. As part of the public consultation I wrote to the Secretary of State for Scotland on 13 December.

Driving Tests

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there will be any increase in the cost to candidates to sit the car and motorcycle theory tests as a result of the decision by the Driving Standards Agency to change the questions in the test. [87384]

Mike Penning: The Driving Standards Agency has no plans to increase theory test fees as a result of changing the questions in the test.

Driving Under Influence: Costs

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the average cost to the public purse of a single drink-drive *(a)* offence and conviction, *(b)* offence and conviction involving a serious injury and *(c)* offence and conviction involving a death. [87325]

Mike Penning: My Department is currently finalising with the Ministry of Justice and Home Office the costs to the judicial system and the police used in its assessments of legal changes related to drink-drive offences and convictions.

The average values of preventing road casualties in 2009 were £1,585,510 for a fatality, £178,160 for a serious injury and £13,740 for a slight (ie lesser) injury. These values include costs related to the emergency services and the health service, as well as wider economic and social costs.

Driving Under Influence: Rehabilitation

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost to the public purse was of participation by an individual on a drink-drive rehabilitation course in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate she has made of the likely savings to the public purse which could be made if proposals that there will be more than one provider of drink-drive rehabilitation courses in each region were implemented. [86734]

Mike Penning: The cost to the Driving Standards Agency of administering and quality assuring the Drink Driver Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) in 2009-10 was £140,000. 29,400 offenders completed a DDRS course resulting in an average cost per offender of £4.76.

The current Driving Standards Agency consultation on revised arrangements for DDRS includes the adoption of the 'user pays' principle. This will transfer the cost of accrediting and quality assuring DDRS from the public purse to the offender. Whether there are multiple or single course providers in any area will have no effect on the sum transferred.

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reoffending rates were for offenders who undertook a drink-drive rehabilitation course in a region with *(a)* a single provider and *(b)* multiple providers of such courses in the latest period for which figures are available. [86735]

Mike Penning: No data have been gathered that would allow us to identify whether there is a difference in the reoffending rates between those areas with a single rehabilitation course provider and those with multiple course providers.

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of deaths that have been prevented by the introduction of the drink-drive rehabilitation scheme. [86779]

Mike Penning: It is not possible to specifically attribute any part of the reduction in death rates on the road to the introduction of the drink-drive rehabilitation scheme.

We are satisfied that drink-drive rehabilitation schemes are effective. Transport Research Laboratory research in 2004 reported that offenders who had not attended a course were 2.6 times more likely to have been convicted of a subsequent drink-drive offence when compared with those who had attended a course.

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effects on reoffending rates of her proposed changes to the drink-drive rehabilitation scheme. [87323]

Mike Penning: The Driving Standards Agency consultation "New approval arrangements for Drink Drive Rehabilitation courses" was issued on 9 November 2011. One of the aims of the proposals it contains is that they will create better quality courses that will encourage more offenders to take advantage of the training in order to reduce the likelihood of them reoffending.

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely factors an offender would take into account in choosing between providers in an area with more than one provider of drink-drive rehabilitation courses. [87324]

Mike Penning: Where an offender has a choice between the offerings of two or more drink-drive rehabilitation course providers, it is assumed that the key factors that will determine which course is chosen will be convenience (in terms of the location of the course and its timing)

and the overall cost of attending the course (the course fee, travel costs and any loss of income or leisure time incurred by the offender).

All approved courses are required to offer provision to a specified standard and will be monitored against that standard.

Drug Screening Technology: Police Stations

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to her Department's Structural Reform Monthly Implementation Plan, what progress has been made on work with the Home Office to authorise the use of drug screening technology in police stations. [86584]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 13 December 2011]:* As indicated in the November monthly implementation report about the DFT Structural Reform Plan, authorisation of drug screening technology depends on the type approval of individual devices by the Secretary of State for the Home Department. This is given only following operational and laboratory tests of the devices against the type approval specification. Operational tests have been completed.

In the light of the closure next year of the Forensic Science Service (FSS), new arrangements are required for the laboratory tests and the Home Office is putting these into place as quickly as technically possible.

East Midlands Airport: Security

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with management of East Midlands Airport on the swabbing of religious headgear of *(a)* passengers and *(b)* airport workers. [87200]

Mrs Villiers: The decision on whether to participate in the trial of alternative screening processes for religious headgear is one for individual airports. DFT officials informed East Midlands airport of the trial and had several discussions with them ahead of the implementation of the process there earlier this year.

East Midlands airport is now participating in the trial in passenger search lanes. The airport has kept DFT officials updated.

Electric Vehicles

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress her Department has made on increasing the number of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. [86851]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* We have put in place a range of policies to kick start the early market for low emission vehicles in the UK, with support for consumer incentives, recharging infrastructure, and research, development and demonstration projects.

As of 30 September 2011, 786 claims have been made through the Plug-In Car Grant scheme (PiCG), with the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) data showing that 910 cars eligible for the PiCG were registered over the same period.

Relative to the number of electric cars registered in previous years, the number of cars bought since January this year represents a significant step change. We expect uptake to increase further as more vehicles come to market over the next year.

London Airports

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on new runways at *(a)* Stansted and *(b)* Gatwick airport. [86553]

Mrs Villiers: The coalition Government have stated that they would not give permission for additional runways at Gatwick and Stansted.

We want to see a successful aviation sector which facilitates economic growth and addresses its environmental impacts. We will issue a Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation for public consultation in spring 2012.

Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* make, *(b)* model and *(c)* place of manufacture is of each car (i) loaned or (ii) purchased by the Government Car and Despatch Agency since May 2010. [84335]

Mike Penning: The first table shows those cars that the Government Car and Despatch Agency has purchased, leased or been loaned since May 2010 that remain in the fleet. The second table shows those that where loaned since May 2010 that have since been returned.

Make and Model	*Registration date*	*Country of build*	
Toyota Prius	12 May 2010	Japan	Leased
Toyota Prius	12 May 2010	Japan	Leased
Toyota Prius	12 May 2010	Japan	Leased
Toyota Prius	12 May 2010	Japan	Leased
Toyota Prius	12 May 2010	Japan	Leased
Ford Focus	19 May 2010	Germany	On loan development car
Electric	19 May 2010	Japan	Leased
Electric	19 May 2010	Japan	Leased
Jaguar XF 3.0 Diesel	18 January 2011	United Kingdom	Leased
Jaguar XJ LWB 3.0D	25 October 2011	United Kingdom	Purchased
Jaguar XF 3.0 Diesel	25 October 2011	United Kingdom	Purchased
Jaguar XJ LWB 3.0D	1 November 2011	United Kingdom	Purchased
Jaguar XJ LWB 3.0D	1 November 2011	United Kingdom	Purchased

Make and model	Date received	Date returned	Country of build	
Jaguar XF 3.0D	14 June 2010	13 July 2010	United Kingdom	On loan for evaluation
Jaguar XJ 3.0D	3 June 2010	26 August 2010	United Kingdom	On loan for evaluation
Jaguar XJ 3.0D	3 June 2010	30 June 2010	United Kingdom	On loan for evaluation
Jaguar XJ 3.0D	1 July 2010	26 August 2010	United Kingdom	On loan for evaluation
Vauxhall Astra 1.3 Ecoflex	19 July 2010	26 July 2010	United Kingdom	On loan for evaluation
Toyota Auris 1.8 Hybrid	29 July 2010	5 August 2010	Japan	On loan for evaluation
Jaguar XJ 3.0D	12 October 2010	15 October 2010	United Kingdom	On loan for evaluation
Jaguar XJ 3.0D	13 July 2010	13 January 2011	United Kingdom	On loan for evaluation
Nissan Leaf EV	8 June 2011	29 June 2011	Japan	On loan for evaluation
Jaguar XF 3.0D	17 June 2011	8 July 2011	United Kingdom	On loan for evaluation
Jaguar XJ 3.0D	17 June 2011	13 July 2011	United Kingdom	On loan for evaluation
Ford Mondeo 1.6D Econetic	26 August 2011	2 September 2011	Germany	On loan for evaluation
Jaguar XF 3.0D	6 September 2011	22 September 2011	United Kingdom	On loan for evaluation
Jaguar XJ 3.0D	7 September 2011	18 November 2011	United Kingdom	On loan for evaluation
Jaguar XJ 3.0D	7 September 2011	18 November 2011	United Kingdom	On loan for evaluation
Jaguar XJ 3.0D	27 September 2011	18 November 2011	United Kingdom	On loan for evaluation
Ford Mondeo 1.6D Econetic	14 October 2011	4 November 2011	Belgium	On loan for evaluation
Jaguar XF 3.0D	10 October 2011	9 November 2011	United Kingdom	On loan for evaluation

Railway Stations: Rotherham

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the level of *(a)* delays and *(b)* additional costs in the refurbishment of Rotherham Central railway station; and if she will make a statement. [85358]

Norman Baker: South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTE) is responsible for the delivery of the refurbishment of Rotherham Central railway station. This includes the management of delay and cost overruns. The Department has funded Access for All enhancements which will be delivered by SYPTE, as part of this scheme.

Rescue Services: Wales

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the change has been in levels of staffing costs for the Coastguard Service in Wales since May 2010. [86302]

Mike Penning: The staffing costs for coastguards employed at Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres in Wales for May 2010 compared with October 2011 are set out as follows:

	Salary costs (£)
May 2010	174,718.03
October 2011	168,081.24

Road Traffic Control

Mr Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent reports her Department has published under section 2 of the Road Traffic Reduction (National Targets) Act 1998; and if she will make a statement. [86402]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not published any recent reports under section 2 of the Road Traffic Reduction (National Targets) Act 1998.

While the Secretary of State for Transport is not obliged to publish further reports, the Department does of course believe that reducing the environmental, social and economic adverse impacts of road traffic is important. Indeed, reducing these impacts, across the entire transport spectrum, is core to the Department's business.

The Government's first report under the Act can be found at

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/congestionresearch/tacklingcongestionandpolluti4028.html

Shipping: Southampton

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with representatives of the Port of Southampton on *(a)* Maersk Triple E Class and *(b)* other larger container ships. [87171]

Mike Penning: No such discussions have yet taken place. I am, however, aware, and have seen evidence of when I visited the port, of Southampton's desire to enhance its capacity to accommodate such vessels.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of deep-sea container operations in Southampton. [87172]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport fully appreciates the importance of Southampton as the second-largest deep-sea container port in the United Kingdom, it having handled some 1.6 million teu (twenty-foot equivalent units) in 2010. Its expansion plans are specifically noted in the National Policy Statement for Ports.

Teesside Airport

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to safeguard the future of Teesside airport following the decision by Peel Airports to put it up for sale. [87412]

Mrs Villiers: The Government recognise the vital contribution regional airports make to local economies, and fully appreciate that the announcement of Durham

Tees Valley airport's sale will cause concern for the people and business community in the north-east region. Any decision to sell the airport is a commercial matter for its joint owners.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 262-64W, on Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, what contribution her Department plans to make to the budget of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in each year of the current spending review period; and how much her Department contributed in each of the last five years. [86852]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* The contribution made by the Department for Transport to the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in each year of the last five years and planned for the current spending review period is set out in the following table.

	Contribution (£ million)
Annual Accounts	
2006-07	10.0
2007-08	12.4
2008-09	18.3
2009-10	21.5
2010-11	19.0
Budget	
2011-12	18.7
Plan	
2012-13	17.0
2013-14	16.0
2014-15	16.0

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85668]

Mr Maude: Across the public sector, commissioners need to be innovative, entrepreneurial and capable of meeting complex needs while being active managers of diverse markets consisting of providers such as mutuals, voluntary and community organisations and SMEs.

By tackling protracted and overly bureaucratic processes and building in more strategic dialogue with suppliers (from all sectors) as well as users of public services early on, unnecessary and costly waste can be reduced in our public services, value for taxpayers' money can be delivered, and innovative bids can be attracted from a range of organisations that deliver outcomes and meets with user need.

We also need to drive up commissioner skills in terms of outcomes-based commissioning, innovative new models of delivery and payment by result. We are currently scoping a Commissioning Academy to up skill professionals, enabling them to deliver the vision outlined in the Open Public Services White Paper of a diverse provider market.

This will maximise social value, something which the Government support through the Public Services (Social Value) Bill currently going through Parliament.

Risk Assessment

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what risk registers are kept by the Corporate Services Group of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [86883]

Mr Maude: Management Units within the Corporate Services Group of the Cabinet Office are required to maintain risk registers. In addition, there is a strategic risk register which is reviewed by the board.

Our "Top 5" Major Projects can be found on our quarterly Data summary.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the number of unregistered voters in each *(a)* region and *(b)* parliamentary constituency. [87438]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what the number of unregistered voters is by (a) region and (b) parliamentary constituency (87438).

ONS does not have the data required to answer your question. Data are collected on the number of people who are registered to vote in the UK, but no data are collected on the number of people who are eligible to vote but who choose not to register.

The ONS population estimates are of the resident population and will include some people who are not eligible to vote. Therefore the number of unregistered electors cannot be calculated based on the difference between the population estimate and the number of registered electors.

Japan Tobacco International: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Hain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87607]

Mr Maude: Hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers is published on a quarterly basis on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations

Plutonium: Major Projects Authority

Paul Flynn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which staff of the Major Projects Authority have expertise in the management of plutonium; and from which Government Departments are such staff seconded. [86748]

Mr Maude: There are no staff in the Major Projects Authority who have expertise in the management of plutonium. The MPA does, however, manage a database of accredited assurance reviewers who sit on review teams to provide independent assurance on the Government's major projects. These reviewers are experts in their field and are a mixture of external consultants and in-house civil servants from across Government. Of the active civil servant pool there are c. 45 individuals with nuclear sector experience from a range of Government Departments.

Social Enterprises

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what his Department's definition of social enterprise is as regards the departmental responsibilities of the Minister for Civil Society; [87625]

(2) whether he has any plans to introduce a statutory definition of a social enterprise. [87624]

Mr Hurd: The Government use the broad definition of social enterprise that was agreed by the sector, which is that:

"Social enterprises are businesses with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners."

Social enterprises can take a wide range of legal forms, including the Community Interest Company (CIC) form, which was custom made for social enterprises and is regulated by the CIC Regulator. As the definition of social enterprise is inclusive, and there exist legal forms specifically for social enterprises, there are no plans to introduce a statutory definition of social enterprise.

Third Sector: North-west England

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many charity or voluntary sector groups in the North West received funding from the Government in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011. [87748]

Mr Hurd: The Cabinet Office does not hold information on Government funding to charity or voluntary sector groups by region.

Information on central Government spend to the voluntary and charitable sector (including both grants and contracts) is available through Departmental Business Plans, published at:

http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/transparency/srp/

Latest figures for 2009-10 have been published by 11 central Government Departments to date, totalling £1.27 billion.

Voluntary Work: Older People

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to facilitate volunteering for older people; and if he will make a statement. [87235]

Mr Hurd: Promoting social action among all age groups, including volunteering, is a key part of the Government's vision for the big society. The Giving White Paper, published in May 2011, outlined a number of measures that will support the creation of a culture of giving both time and money. These include the following measures which relate to volunteering and all of which are open to older people:

Over £40 million of funding over the next two years to support volunteering, giving and volunteering infrastructure by way of the Social Action Fund, Challenge Prizes and Local Infrastructure Fund. These funds have no upper age restrictions.

£1 million to support Youthnet which runs the volunteering website

www.do-it.org.uk

Volunteering opportunities here do not have an upper age limit.

£400,000 support from Government and NESTA to trial 'Spice' in England which gives volunteers 'thank yous' like vouchers or discounts with local businesses when they do good things for the community. There is no upper age restriction on this trial.

Through the Social Action Fund, which launched in October 2010, we are seeking to fund programmes that encourage professionals who have retired, or are on the point of retirement, to use their experience and skills for community/public benefit.

Finally as part of the national work programme for the European Year of Volunteering 2011 the Office for Civil Society provided Age UK with a grant to promote the role of volunteering in enabling active aging. Age UK have sought to explore the barriers to and benefits of older people volunteering. As a result they will publish guidance for the voluntary and community sector on how to enable older to people to take part in volunteering and benefit from it. This has been designed to lead into the European Year of Active Aging and Solidarity Between Generations in 2012.

Youth Services: Closures

Mr Thomas: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many letters he received on the closure of charity-run youth centres in England in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [86868]

Mr Hurd: I receive numerous correspondences that cover a wide range of topics. The information sought is not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Procurement

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years. [84230]

Robert Neill: The Department has outsourced the following services over the last five years:

Service	*Duration*
Total Facilities Management contract in Eland House	29 April 2004 to 28 April 2013
Managed IT Services	9 February 2006 to 8 December 2013
Payroll	6 August 2007 to 31 March 2013

Various project management outsourcing was conducted in each of the last five years mostly in the areas of minor construction and major fire related projects.

Fire Services

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what lessons have been learned from Exercise Watermark in respect of the fire and rescue service. [87214]

Robert Neill: A lessons learned report in respect of all organisations involved in Exercise Watermark, including the fire and rescue service, was published on 31 October 2011. It can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/10/31/pb13673-exercise-watermark/

The Government intend to issue a formal response to the report by the end of March which will include consideration of recommendations in relation to the fire and rescue service. At the local level Local Resilience Forums will be considering how to take forward the report's recommendations and the fire and rescue service will be involved in these discussions.

Fire Services: Finance

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it is his policy to change the formula for allocating spending reductions to fire and rescue authorities in years three and four of the spending settlement to ensure that reductions are allocated on an equitable basis. [87215]

Robert Neill: I refer the right hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made earlier today by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government setting out the Government's response to the recent Local Government Resource Review consultation. I can assure you that I will seek to ensure that any new system is equitable.

I also refer the right hon. Member to my letter of 6 December 2010 to the hon. Member for Derby North (Chris Williamson), a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, which outlines how fire and rescue authorities can make sensible savings without impacting on the quality and breadth of services offered to their communities.

Homelessness: North-east England

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department has taken to measure the levels of *(a)* homelessness and *(b)* people living in temporary accommodation in the North East; and if he will make a statement. [85564]

Grant Shapps: Statutory homelessness statistics which includes households living in temporary accommodation, are published quarterly and can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

We have acted decisively to introduce a more accurate assessment of rough sleeping. The flaws in the last Administration's rough sleeping counts, were widely recognised to systematically under-estimate the number of people sleeping on the streets.

The latest rough sleeping statistics for autumn 2010 are also available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1845849.xls

and indicates that the North East region had the lowest number of 49.

Local authorities in this part of England have been allocated homelessness grant funding of £2,732,840 for 2011-12. This is an increase from their homelessness grant allocation of £2,140,600 in 2010-11.

I recently announced a new £42.5 million Homelessness Change Programme which will provide in excess of 1,500 new and improved bed spaces to improve hostels for rough sleepers and ensure that those coming off the streets get the support they need. Local authorities in this part of England have been allocated £2,239,991 to deliver this important work.

Housing

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to balance an increase in supply of new housing with stabilisation of demand to enable the market to clear. [87518]

Grant Shapps: The Government recognise the importance of getting the housing market moving again. We have recently published 'Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England', which sets out our housing policies to tackle the particular problems currently being faced:

Lenders are not lending enough—with high deposit requirements excluding young people and families from home ownership. Hence, we are promoting schemes such as Firstbuy, extending the right to buy and supporting a new and innovative new build indemnity scheme.

Builders are not building—without consumers ready to buy, and without enough land for development or access to finance. Hence, we are promoting policies such as the £400 million Getting Britain Building investment fund, establishing a new £500 million Growing Places Fund which will support infrastructure for housing and economic growth and freeing up public sector land with capacity to deliver up to 100,000 new homes.

These demand and supply measures aim to get the housing market—and in particular new house building—moving again. This is vital for our economic growth—but more importantly, it is essential to the hopes and plans of young people, families and older households across the country.

Land Use: Statistics

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has plans to change the frequency of publication of Land Use Change Statistics. [87673]

Robert Neill: The Government have no plans to change the frequency of publication of Land Use Change Statistics, which will continue as an annual statistical release.

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on including statistics on development of best and most versatile land in the Land Use Change Statistics. [87674]

Robert Neill: The Department is considering the inclusion of statistics on development of best and most versatile land in future releases of the Land Use Change Statistics. Statistics on the development of such land have previously appeared in the State of the Countryside report published by the Commission for Rural Communities in 2010.

Local Government Services

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to allow local authorities to trade in non-statutory services. [87402]

Robert Neill: Since 1970, local authorities have been able to trade with many other public bodies for the provision of various goods and services. The Local Government Act 2003 gave local authorities the power to trade commercially in function-related activities through a company, which has enabled trading by local authorities with private sector bodies. That Act also gave local authorities powers to charge for provision of discretionary services, that is those services that an authority has the power but not a duty to provide, on a cost recovery basis.

With regard to charging and trading, the exercise of the new general power of competence in the Localism Act 2011 replicates the 2003 Act.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answers of 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 1137W, and 9 February 2010, *Official Report*, column 882W, on mortgages: Government assistance, how many households received financial support under the last Administration's Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme; and how much was paid from the public purse in support to property owners under the scheme during the period of its operation. [83553]

Grant Shapps: The two year Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme, introduced by the last Government, closed to new registrations in April 2011 with 62 households registered. To date, no payments have been made and no expenditure undertaken in relation to the Government guarantee.

Public Expenditure: Liverpool

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in his Department's budget on *(a)* housing projects and *(b)* local government services in Liverpool in 2014-15. [86956]

Grant Shapps: The last Administration left the biggest budget deficit in our peacetime history—with the state forecast to borrow £146 billion a year in 2010-11, or £400 million being borrowed every single day. This was unsustainable. The coalition Government have taken steps to tackle this deficit, restoring market confidence. These measures will help eliminate the structural current deficit over the coming years. This will help keep interest rates down for home owners, restore economic stability and reduce the amount of taxpayers' money that would otherwise be spent on debt interest.

Within the agreed public spending envelope, we have taken steps to support house building, given the important contribution it makes to both economic growth and social mobility. This has included using departmental unallocated funding to support housing (e.g. the Growing Places Fund).

We have also designed our housing policies to tackle the particular problems currently being faced in the housing market:

Lenders are not lending enough—with high deposit requirements excluding young people and families from home ownership. Hence, we are promoting schemes such as Firstbuy, extending the right to buy and supporting a new and innovative new build indemnity scheme.

Builders are not building—without consumers ready to buy, and without enough land for development or access to finance. Hence, we are promoting policies such as the Getting Britain Building investment fund and the Build Now, Pay Later programme for public sector land.

Liverpool, in common with other parts of the country, has benefited from the Government's decisions to:

secure £6.5 billion investment for Supporting People—which equates to an average annual reduction over the four years of the spending review of less than 1% in cash terms;

increase spending on disabled facilities grant over the spending review period, from £169 million in 2010-11 to £180 million in 2011-12, rising to £185 million in 2014-15;

invest £400 million in homelessness prevention over the next four years. Liverpool was allocated homelessness grant funding of £600,000 for 2011-12. This is an increase from their homelessness grant allocation of £341,050 in 2010-11;

invest £4.5 billion in new affordable housing, which is expected to deliver up to 170,000 affordable homes over the spending review period. Our new affordable rent model allows providers to lever more in private investment so we will be able to deliver more homes for every pound of subsidy from the taxpayer;

invest £2.1 billion on Decent Homes to improve the condition of existing social housing;

get formula grant to where it is needed most, with the relative needs weighting increased so that more money follows socio-economic indicators. This is more progressive than last year's distribution. This targets resources at those councils who are the most dependent on central Government grant and the neediest by paying much more attention to the level of need in calculating the grant each area receives. For social services authorities and for shire district councils, we have grouped councils together in four bands, reflecting their relative reliance on central Government grant. We have used banded floors so that the most dependent authorities get the smallest reduction. Additionally, the transitional grant provides funding to limit losses. This funding is all going to the most deprived areas and is managing significant change such as the scheduled end of Working Neighbourhoods Fund. Liverpool has received £15 million in transition grant in 2011-12.

Public Lavatories

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what funding his Department has provided to local authorities for Changing Places toilets; [86699]

(2) which local authorities have taken part in the Changing Places campaign; and how many Changing Places toilets have been provided; [86700]

(3) what plans he has to amend planning regulations and guidance on the provision of sanitary facilities for people with complex and multiple disabilities; [86701]

(4) what discussions he has had with national and local disability organisations on the Changing Places campaign on disabled toilets. [86702]

Andrew Stunell: Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant so local authorities are free to spend the grant on any service provided that they meet their statutory duties. For this reason, and due to the method of calculating formula grant, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to identify how much grant has been provided for any particular service. It is for local authorities to set their budgets according to the needs of their local community.

We have no plans to amend planning regulations and guidance. However we set out in December 2010 our intention to consider whether there was a case for Government intervention to deliver better provision of Changing Places toilets including possible targeted regulation through the Building Regulations. We will be publishing early in the new year a consultation setting out our intended next steps.

As part of this ongoing work officials met with representatives of the Changing Places Campaign and MENCAP on 3 February and 28 November 2011. A further meeting with both MENCAP and members of the Changing Places Consortium has been arranged for the 27 January 2012.

Information on the Changing Places campaign, including which local authorities have indicated their support, and the current number of facilities in the UK can be found on the Changing Places website

www.changing-places.org.

Supporting People Programme

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which voluntary and third sector organisations have made written representations to him on the Supporting People scheme; and if he will make a statement. [79358]

Grant Shapps: Ministers have received a number of pieces of correspondence on this issue, encompassing a range of opinion from organisations across the sector including representative bodies, charities, housing associations and service providers.

Union of Good

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the representation of people listed by his Department as supporters of the Union of Good on bodies funded by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [86882]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* My Department scrutinises all groups it funds to ensure that they and their representatives do not hold extremist views or support terrorist-related activity of any kind, in this country or overseas.

With regard to the Union of Good, my Department holds no such list of supporters.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to respond to question 83268, on New Deal for Communities scheme, tabled on 22 November 2011 for answer on 25 November 2011. [86821]

Robert Neill: Parliamentary question 83268 was answered on 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 766W.

Youth Services: Closures

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many letters he received on the closure of youth centres in England in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [86869]

Andrew Stunell: This information is not available. All departmental correspondence is logged and dealt with through the departmental central system. However, the system is not sufficiently sophisticated to extract the data requested.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Aluminium: Industry

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's policy is on support for the aluminium industry; and if he will make a statement. [86943]

Mr Prisk: The Government are taking action to support manufacturing, including the aluminium industry, through their encouragement of higher levels of innovation, exports, business investment and technical skills as well as cutting excessive red tape.

As part of the autumn statement the Government also announced measures worth around £250 million to help our Energy Intensive Industries, including the aluminium industry, to reduce their energy bills. In addition, there will be a £1 billion increase in the Regional Growth Fund to help regional rebalancing, and on 6 December 2011 we launched a £125 million challenge fund to boost UK advanced manufacturing supply chains.

Bankruptcy: Insolvency

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to increase the number of *(a)* bankruptcy restriction orders and undertakings and *(b)* disqualification orders and undertakings obtained by the Insolvency Service. [86694]

Mr Davey: The number of Bankruptcy Restriction Orders, Disqualification Orders and undertakings obtained by the Insolvency Service is dependant upon the number of insolvencies prevailing at any particular time and the level of misconduct identified in those insolvencies. Planning assumptions are given in the Insolvency Service's corporate plan and outputs are given in the service's annual report and accounts. Planning assumptions for 2012-13 will be available in the corporate plan for that period when available.

Business: Competition

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what supply-side steps his Department is taking to ensure that British businesses remain economically competitive. [87516]

Mr Prisk: The Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative aims to help existing UK supply chains grow and achieve world class standards while encouraging major new suppliers to come and manufacture here. The new fund will support innovative projects in established UK advanced manufacturing sectors such as aerospace, automotive and chemicals. It will also target newer growth areas where the UK is well placed to take a global lead, such as energy renewables and other low carbon sectors. The competitive fund will invite applications early in the new year. Further information on criteria, funding and other arrangements concerning the initiative will also be available early in the new year.

Business: Corruption

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the provision of the Bribery Act 2010 on small and medium-sized enterprises. [86169]

Mr Prisk: The Bribery Act came into force on 1 July 2011. It is too soon to make an assessment of the effects it has had on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

SMEs considering trading overseas can get free advice and guidance on how to combat bribery and corruption from the Business Anti-Corruption Portal:

www.business-anti-corruption.com

a website co-sponsored by my Department. UK Trade and Investment also provides advice for business on a number of topics including bribery and corruption on their Overseas Business Risk website:

www.ukti.gov.uk/overseasbusinessrisk

Business: Government Assistance

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small and medium-sized enterprises have received assistance from Government schemes in *(a)* Leicester South constituency, *(b)* Leicester, *(c)* Leicestershire, *(d)* the east midlands and *(e)* England in the last 18 months. [86474]

Mr Prisk: The Government's Solutions for Business portfolio sets out the range of publicly funded support designed to help businesses to identify and overcome key challenges as they grow. Available figures on the number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) assisted are set out in the following tables:

Product	*Leicester South*	*Leicester*	*Leicestershire*	*East midlands*	*England*	*Comment*
Manufacturing Advisory Service	88	196	561	2,139	14,000	Figures are April 2010 to 30 September 2011.
Access to finance	36	69	249	1,105	12,751	These figures are for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme only.
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	n/a	6	7	20	237	Refers to new KTPs awarded to SMEs, not total number of SMEs assisted and so numbers are underestimated.
Collaborative Research and Development product	n/a	8	32	171	924	Refers to new grants awarded to SMEs, not total number of SMEs assisted and so numbers are underestimated.
Grant for Research and Development product	n/a	6	6	25	348	Refers to new grants awarded to SMEs, not total number of SMEs assisted and so numbers are underestimated.

n/a = Figures not available
Note:
In some cases sub-national data are not available so national figures for England are provided.

Product	*England*	*Comment*
Rural Development Programme for England Business Support	21,000	Figures for 18 months up until June 2011. Majority of business supported are SMEs and micro enterprises.

Product	England	Comment
Helping Your Business Grow Internationally	21,894	Figures from April 2010 to March 2011 (including the two former Business Support Simplification Products)
Work Place Training, Including Apprenticeships:		
2009-10	26,460	These are the number of SMEs supported with advice and grant funding for development activities through the Leadership and Management Programme. Apprenticeship data are not available
2010-11	28,923	'—
Networking for Innovation	n/a	There 15 UK-wide Knowledge Transfer Networks on which collectively there are over 60,000+ members.

n/a = Figures not available
' Indicates brace

Figures for Understanding Finance, Improving Your Resource Efficiency, Designing Demand and High Growth Coaching for Growth are not available.

In addition, the Government have funded a range of information and support which was delivered via the regional development agencies (RDAs) through the Business Link regional advisory service. East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA) the RDA covering the east midlands, have supplied the following figures for SMEs assisted by Business Link in the east midlands and the wider Business Link regional service across England in the last 18 months:

Leicestershire: 26,648

East midlands: 125,296

England: 844, 293.

Company Accounts

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy that the level of fines imposed on small businesses for late filing of accounts with Companies House should reflect the annual turnover of that business. [87401]

Mr Davey: The level of fines imposed on companies for the late filing of accounts with Companies House is set in legislation, not policy, and depend on how late the accounts are when they reach Companies House. Neither the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, nor the Registrar of Companies can change the level of fines to reflect the annual turnover of the business incurring the fine.

The level of fines was carefully reviewed by Parliament during the passage of the Companies Act 2006, and it decided to have two penalty scales; one for public companies and one for private companies. Apart from this, Parliament decided to make no distinction between companies based on their size or trading status.

Advisory Services

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what contribution his Department has made to the cross-Government review of advice funding announced in July 2011. [84325]

Mr Davey: BIS continues to support the advice sector through maintained funding of the national umbrella bodies for the Citizens Advice service in England, Wales and Scotland. We will be working with colleagues across Government on the review of advice funding led by Cabinet Office.

Departmental Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff in his Department are working on the Green Investment Bank. [87089]

Mr Prisk: A Green Investment Bank team, which comprises 10 people, has been set up to manage the establishment of the bank and is supported by other areas of the Department such as legal and economic advice.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff in his Department have duties which involve liaising with the Department of Energy and Climate Change. [87090]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the Department of Energy and Climate Change work closely together across a wide range of policy and operational areas and so a considerable number of officials are involved in liaising with the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff in his Department are working in the UK Green Investments team. [87096]

Mr Prisk: We have made the first senior appointments to the UK Green Investments team, comprising eight people, and expect to make further appointments shortly.

Procurement

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts his Department has advertised on the Contracts Finder website in each month since May 2010; what the value was of such contracts; what proportion was awarded to *(a)* third sector organisations and *(b)* small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [75117]

Mr Davey: Following clarifications on system capabilities I can confirm that this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Company Directors: Disqualification

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many D1 reports on the required conduct of directors under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 have been received by the Insolvency Service; and how many directors were disqualified under this Act in each year from 2005-06 to 2010-11. [86949]

Mr Davey: The information is as follows.

Disqualification orders and undertakings (section 2, 6 and 8 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 cases):

2005-06: 1,173
2006-07: 1,200
2007-08: 1,145
2008-09: 1,281
2009-10: 1,102
2010-11: 1,437.

D1 reports received:

2005-06: 3,675
2006-07: 4,107
2007-08: 3,991
2008-09: 4,752
2009-10: 7,030
2010-11: 5,373.

Export Credits Guarantee Department: Finance

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration his Department has given to providing funding to the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) to ensure that new trade finance products offered by ECGD are marketed and accessible to small and medium sized enterprises. [86534]

Mr Davey: ECGD's operating costs are authorised through parliamentary vote, including the cost of its marketing services.

I also refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne Central (Chi Onwurah) on 9 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 377W.

Exports

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to increase exports to emerging markets; and if he will make a statement. [87322]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) has identified 20 priority high growth and emerging markets which we are encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to export to. These are: Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, and Vietnam.

UKTI is encouraging SMEs to increase exports to these markets by:

raising greater awareness amongst UK business of these markets through events like 'Doing Business in Asia', 'Journey through Latin America', and 'Partner Middle East' around the UK; and through the launch last week of a new campaign (announced by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague)), to encourage more British companies to export to Asia's high growth and emerging markets.

communicating to SMEs the specific business opportunities in high growth and emerging markets through a programme of research, and via UKTI's network of teams in the UK and in these markets.

launching a UK-ASEAN Business Council in November to help UK SMEs

succeed in these markets, and to sit alongside the China-Britain Business Council and UK-India Business Councils.

campaigning for better access for UK companies in these markets, including engaging in Government-to-Government trade dialogues, and also backing plans for ambitious EU free trade agreements with a number of these markets.

ensuring there are targeted services and advice available for businesses considering these markets.

To underpin this work, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, recently announced that UK Trade & Investment will double to 50,000 the number of companies it helps to export each year. A very substantial proportion of these will be trading with the top 20 high growth and emerging markets identified by UKTI. UKTI will plan to focus sufficient resources on these markets in order to deliver on this ambition.

Green Investment Bank

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills from what budgetary source the running costs of the Green Investment Bank will be paid. [87088]

Mr Prisk: We will establish an institution which is effective and affordable. We are still in the process of finalising the cost estimates. Reasonable running costs of the Green Investment Bank over the spending review period will be funded from BIS budgets.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Green Investment Bank will be a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [87095]

Mr Prisk: This issue has not yet been finalised.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 61-63WS, on the Green Investment Bank, what form of support will be provided by the Green Investment Bank for the Green Deal. [87175]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills explained in his written statement of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 61-63WS, that support for the Green Deal will be one of the priority sectors in the spending review period to 2015-16.

This applies to both the Green Investment Bank and UK Green Investment (UKGI). We expect to commence discussions shortly with potential providers of Green Deal finance. All investment decisions will be made against a double bottom line of green impact and financial return.

Green Investment Bank: Pay

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate has been made of the likely annual salary of the Green Investment Bank's chief executive officer; and what remuneration the board members of the Green Investment Bank are expected to receive; [87092]

(2) what the recruitment process will be for the Green Investment Bank's *(a)* chief executive officer and *(b)* other staff; [87093]

(3) whether the Green Investment Bank's staff will be paid annual performance-related bonuses. [87094]

Mr Prisk: The Green Investment Bank will be established as a Companies Act company following best practice corporate governance and operate at arm's length from Government. Odgers Berndtson has been retained to advise on recruitment strategy and remuneration levels relating to the Green Investment Bank. We will begin the formal recruitment process for the board and senior management team next month, with a view to appointing the Chair in spring 2012.

Green Investment Bank: Recruitment

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the recruitment process for UK Green Investments *(a)* staff and *(b)* fund managers will be. [87097]

Mr Prisk: BIS is committed to recruiting a high quality UK Green Investments team while ensuring that appointments provide value for money. The team is currently a mix of secondees and fixed term appointments.

On 12 December UK Green Investments launched a call for expressions of interest from experienced fund managers in the waste infrastructure sector.

Higher Education

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many adults of each gender aged 24 and over took level 3 or higher qualifications in each further education establishment in the latest year for which figures are available. [86219]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* Table 1 shows the number of adult (aged 24+) learners participating on further education courses, Level 3 and above, in England by gender and provider type in 2009/10, the latest year for which final data are available.

Table 1: Adult (aged 24+) participation on level 3 and above further education courses by gender and provider type, 2009/10

Participation	*Male*	*Female*	*All*
General Further Education College	106,880	175,810	282,700
Other Public Funded	10,930	23,860	34,800
Private Sector Public Funded	36,980	70,510	107,490
Schools	100	380	470
Sixth form college	1,070	4,110	5,180
Special colleges	6,520	13,510	20,030
Total further education—Level 3 and above	162,480	288,180	450,660

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Information in this table is based on all government-funded learners.
3. These data include Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, University for Industry, Adult Safeguarded Learning and Further Education/Learner Responsive Provision funding streams.
4. General further education colleges include Tertiary.
5. Special colleges include agricultural and horticultural colleges, art, design and performing arts colleges and specialist designated college.
6. Other public funded includes central Government Department, central Government NDPB, public corporations and trading funds, local education authority (LEA), social services, other local authority, police authority, fire authority, local authority dept, local authority, NHS-English foundation trust, NHS-English non foundation trust, NHS-other organisations, independent school or college, UFI directly funded hub, dance and drama school, external institution, higher education organisation, school sixth form (not college), special learning needs establishment, other public organisation, charitable, non-charitable, other voluntary organisation, LSC region, special college academy.
7. Private Sector Public Funded includes Community Interest Company, Company Incorporated by Royal Charter (England/Wales), Employer Association, Independent Association, Industrial/Provident (England/Wales), Limited Liability Partnership, Limited Partnership, PRI/LBG/NSC/S.30, PRI/LTD BY GUAR/NSC, Private Limited Company, Private Unlimited Company, Public Limited Company, Sole Trader, Trade Union, Chamber of Commerce/Trade, Organisation in Business in its own right, other private organisation, business link.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of learners participating in further education is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 October 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statistical firstrelease/sfr_current

Higher Education: Admissions

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills *(a)* what discussions he had and *(b)* what research was carried out before he decided to allow the unrestricted recruitment by universities of students achieving AAB and above; and if he will publish information relating to any such discussions and research carried out. [85521]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 8 December 2011]:* The Higher Education (HE) White Paper Students at the Heart of the System published in June, included a proposal to allow institutions to compete freely for students with AAB+ or equivalent grades at 'A' level. This proposal aims to free up the current restrictive approach to allocating student places to Higher Education Institutions and allow more students to go to the institution of their choice. Alongside the HE White Paper an impact assessment of the proposals was published on the BIS website which includes modelling of that policy. This impact assessment is available at:

http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/hereform/all-documents/

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) consulted over the summer on the operation of teaching funding and student number controls in 2012/13 which included the freeing up of restrictions on the recruitment of new entrants with AAB+ or equivalent

grades at 'A' level. The outcomes from the consultation including responses are available on the HEFCE website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/learning/funding/201213/

HEFCE is committed to monitoring closely the impacts of the new policy and will offer formal advice as soon as is practicable.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has any plans to allocate further funding to the Retrofit for the Future scheme. [86068]

Mr Prisk: The Retrofit for the Future programme is managed and delivered by the Technology Strategy Board, a BIS sponsored NDPB. The Technology Strategy Board is currently in the latter stages of a £17 million Retrofit for the Future competition which will see the retrofit of 115 homes to a target 80% carbon reduction and includes monitoring of the actual performance of the homes and reporting both the performance data and the practical construction findings through a number of channels including the Green Deal PAS2030 group.

In addition, the Technology Strategy Board has a programme of work on non-domestic retrofit which includes the support of projects, through its Building Performance Evaluation competition, to monitor the in-use performance of new and retrofit buildings, providing a feedback loop to close the performance gap between designed and in-use performance.

In terms of further activities, the Technology Strategy Board is currently in the final stages of offering £1 million worth of contracts to seven UK companies, who will be collaborating with European partners, to scale-up and product-ise the Retrofit process; delivering quicker and at lower cost.

Further work will also involve the Technology Strategy Board working in collaboration with the UK Green Building Council to look at the demand side of Retrofit, including understanding the marketplace packages and offers that will trigger consumers to retrofit their homes and create business opportunities for the construction sector. In 2013/14, the Technology Strategy Board proposes to allocate a further £8 million of funding to support Retrofit projects, the exact scope of which will depend on the outcome of current activities and the needs of business and Government at the time.

Insolvency Service: Disclosure of Information

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many requests the Insolvency Service has received under the Data Protection Act 1998 to view D1 reports submitted by insolvency practitioners under the provisions of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, in each year since 1998. [86947]

Mr Davey: Statistics of recorded requests for D Reports under both the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have been maintained by the Insolvency Service since 1 April 2005. No distinction is made between requests for a D1 or a D2 report so the following figures may include requests for each type of report.

The figures are:

2005-06: 26
2006-07: 33
2007-08: 4
2008-09: 0
2009-10:42
2010-11: 105
2011 to date: 89.

Investment Trusts: Environment Protection

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether UK Green Investments fund managers will be eligible for performance-related bonuses. [87098]

Mr Prisk: Proposed fee structures and levels will be taken into account when assessing potential fund managers.

Investment: Environment Protection

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the proposed £775 million funding for UK Green Investments in the next financial year will come from the £3 billion proposed to capitalise the Green Investment Bank. [87099]

Mr Prisk: Investments made by UK Green Investments will be funded from the £775 million allocation for 2012/13 made available in the Budget, which is part of the £3 billion allocated to the bank. Assets built up by UK Green Investments will transfer to the Green Investment Bank when it becomes operational.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Local Nature Partnerships

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the involvement of local enterprise partnerships in the work of local nature partnerships. [87153]

Mr Prisk: Local enterprise partnerships will choose to work with partners on issues which align with economic and geographical priorities.

Manufacturing Industries: Finance

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the announcement of 6 December 2011 on the advanced manufacturing supply chain initiative, whether there is a closing date for applications to the fund. [87123]

Mr Prisk: It is expected that the initiative will be open for applications early in the new year. A closing date for applications will be set out when the full criteria for the initiative are published soon on the Technology Strategy Board website:

www.innovateuk.org

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the announcement of 6 December 2011 on the advanced manufacturing supply chain initiative, which manufacturing sectors will be eligible for funding under the initiative. [87124]

Mr Prisk: The scheme is open to bids from all advanced manufacturing sectors including both established sectors such as aerospace, automotive and chemicals, and newer growth areas such as energy renewables with a focus on sectors where barriers to entry are high and there is minimal risk of any public support displacing activity that would happen in any case. Further details of eligibility will be set out soon when the full criteria for the initiative are published on the Technology Strategy Board website:

www.innovateuk.org

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the announcement of 6 December 2011 on the advanced manufacturing supply chain initiative, when he expects monies to be distributed from the fund. [87125]

Mr Prisk: Distribution of funding under the initiative will depend in part on the spend profile of successful bids but it is expected that monies will start to be available before the end of the financial year.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the announcement of 6 December 2011 on the advanced manufacturing supply chain initiative, how many firms he expects to receive funding under the scheme. [87126]

Mr Prisk: Up to £125 million is available under the initiative and a minimum bidding threshold of £2 million has been set in order to encourage projects of sufficient scale and depth to make a genuine competitive difference across supply chains. There is no restriction on the number of firms able to apply and small and medium enterprises and other supplier companies will be invited to work together where possible on project packages that together meet or exceed the bidding threshold.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the announcement of 6 December 2011 on the advanced manufacturing supply chain initiative, what criteria he plans to use to assess applications made under the scheme. [87127]

Mr Prisk: Applications will be assessed by the Government's Technology Strategy Board which has a strong track record in supporting credible advanced manufacturing projects. Assessments will be based on the potential to leverage significant private investment; buy-in from the prime manufacturers at the top of the supply chains and potential to strengthen and provide better join-up across whole supply chains. Further details will be provided on the Technology Strategy Board's website shortly.

www.innovateuk.org

Overseas Trade: Advisory Services

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the proposal by the British Chambers of Commerce to restructure the Overseas Market Introduction Service to a variable rate system depending on business size. [86533]

Mr Prisk: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne Central (Chi Onwurah) on 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 629-30W.

Phoenix Companies

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to prevent companies, the directors of which have previously been convicted of fraud, from being resurrected as phoenix companies under the same management. [87762]

Mr Davey: A conviction for fraud against a director (even assuming that the fraud conviction relates to the person acting as a director of the relevant company) does not mean that the company of which s/he is a director is automatically closed after such a conviction.

Limited companies are separate legal entities from those who run and own them. There is nothing in law to prevent a director of a company who may have been convicted of fraud from acting as a director of a company or from forming a new company to carry on a business similar to, or even identical to, that of any other company providing he has not been disqualified from acting in the management of a limited company and is not personally bankrupt.

A criminal court may disqualify a director under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 at the time of a conviction for fraud. If a director has a conviction for fraud, and a company of which he is director subsequently enters formal insolvency, any misconduct may result in a disqualification which will prevent the director, without permission of the court, from acting as a director of any subsequent companies.

Post Offices

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post offices in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland he expects to be converted into Post Office Locals. [87013]

Mr Davey: The Government's policy statement, "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age" made clear that by the end of this Parliament over half the existing network of post offices will have been modernised, offering customers longer opening hours, shorter queues, and an enhanced retail environment. The Government expect around 2,000 branches to be converted to the new Post Office Local model by 2015 as part of this network transformation.

The exact location of new Post Office Local branches is dependent on the suitability of the Local model to the location concerned, the views of existing sub-postmasters on how the model can assist their business going forward, and the requirement by Post Office Ltd to both maintain a network of at least 11,500 branches and to continue to

comply with the strict access criteria whereby, for example, over 99% of the national population must be within three miles of a post office outlet.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many Post Office Locals in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland he expects will operate on a part-time basis; [87014]

(2) where Post Office Locals are located in premises which are open 24 hours a day over what period he expects post office services to be available. [87015]

Mr Davey: The Government's policy statement, "Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age", made clear that the Post Office Local model will provide improved post office opening times related to the hours that the retail shop is open. To date, there are over 130 Post Office Local pilot branches in operation.

Findings from the pilot locations show that, on average, post office services provided through a Post Office Local branch have been available for around 35 more hours per week over and above traditional opening hours of Post Offices. This flexibility has been valued by customers, with over 20% of them conducting transactions outside traditional post office opening hours.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills at which locations Post Office Local services have been trialled; and what feedback his Department has received. [87017]

Mr Davey: The Post Office Local model is currently being trialled in 134 locations across the country, with a further 38 planned by the end of the current financial year. This extensive piloting is enabling Post Office Ltd to comprehensively examine the model to make sure that it is fit for purpose in delivering a high quality customer experience, a reasonable return for the operator, and the long-term sustainability of the Post Office network.

In October 2010, Post Office Ltd commissioned independent research into the pilots, which showed over 90% of customers are extremely or very satisfied with their overall experience of the Local model, with around 80% of customers greatly appreciating the longer opening hours. In May 2011, Consumer Focus published independent research that found that 83% of customers found the overall experience at a Post Office Local—when compared with any alternative post office—at least as good, with a majority (61%) saying that the overall experience at a Post Office Local was better than an alternative post office.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* large parcel services, *(b)* applications for driving licences, *(c)* applications for passports, *(d)* issue of car tax discs, *(e)* cash withdrawals using cash books and *(f)* payments of benefits and pensions will be available at post office locals. [87018]

Mr Davey: The availability of specific products is an operational matter for the Post Office and I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his proposed timetable is for the introduction of post office locals. [87019]

Mr Davey: The Government expect there to be around 2,000 post office locals by the end of this Parliament.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many sub-postmasters in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland have applied to convert their post office to a post office local. [87020]

Mr Davey: The choice to seek to convert to the post office local model is for the individual sub-postmaster, and is voluntary. The exact location of new post office local branches is dependent on the suitability of the local model to the location concerned, the views of existing sub-postmaster on how the model can assist their business going forward, and the requirement by Post Office Ltd to both maintain a network of at least 11,500 branches and to continue to comply with the strict access criteria whereby, for example, over 99% of the national population must be within three miles of a post office outlet. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what arrangements will be put in place to provide post office services during the transition to post office local; [87021]

(2) what public information campaign his Department plans to conduct on service changes associated with the introduction of post office local. [87022]

Mr Davey: Decisions on how branches will be converted to the post office local model are an operational matter for the Post Office. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

However, the hon. Member should know that there is a code of practice in place, agreed between Post Office Ltd and Consumer Focus, which clearly sets out the steps that Post Office Ltd must follow to keep customers fully aware and to mitigate and minimise any disruption, where a sub-post office relocates to new premises.

Post Offices: Training

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether staff at Post Office locals will receive the same training as Post Office staff. [87024]

Mr Davey: Decisions relating to staff training for those operating Post Office local branches is an operational matter for the Post Office. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd. to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Vetting

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what security vetting will be undertaken of post office local staff. [87023]

Mr Davey: Arrangements relating to the security vetting of staff are an operational matter for the Post Office. I have therefore asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Growth Fund: Higher Education

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many higher education institutions participated in Regional Growth Fund bids in both rounds 1 and 2 which were *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful. [85773]

Mr Hayes: Information on whether a project involved higher education institutions was not specifically requested from applicants. Based on the information received through the bids, 50 higher education institutions participated in Regional Growth Fund bids in both rounds. Of these, 18 were successful and 32 were unsuccessful.

Shipping: Southampton

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on businesses of the ability of the Port of Southampton to accommodate *(a)* Maersk Triple E Class and *(b)* other larger container ships. [87173]

Mr Prisk: The Department has made no assessment of the effect on businesses.

Trade Unions: Training

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding from *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Skills Funding Agency and *(c)* the European Social Fund has been made available to fund courses included in the TUC education union professional development programme in 2011-12. [86491]

Mr Hayes: The Skills Funding Agency is responsible for funding post-19 further education (FE) and skills provision delivered through FE colleges and training organisations.

Each academic year, FE colleges and training organisations receive a post-19 funding allocation at the programme level (for example budgets for adult skills, adult safeguarded learning and/or offender learning and skills). As funding is not allocated at the learning aim level the amount of money spent on TUC learning aims is not recorded centrally by the Skills Funding Agency.

The following table provides information on 2009/10 academic year funding rates for learning aims offered through the TUC Education union professional development programme, and funded by the Skills Funding Agency.

Trade Union Council Education Union Professional Development Programme	*Learning aim title*	*2009/10 funding rate (£)*
Contemporary Trade Unionism (including diplomas)	Diploma for Trade Union Representative - Contemporary Trade Unionism (QCF)—Level 2	2,254
	Diploma for Trade Union Representatives - Contemporary Trade Unionism (QCF)—Level 3	2,254
Employment Law (including Diplomas)	TUC Employment Law - Level 2 (9 glh)	56
	TUC Employment Law - Level 3 (9 glh)	56
	TUC Employment Law - Level 2 (12 glh)	75
	TUC Employment Law - Level 3 (12 glh)	75
	TUC Employment Law - Level 2 (18 glh)	113
	TUC Employment Law - Level 3 (18 glh)	113
	TUC Employment Law - Level 2 (30 glh)	188
	TUC Employment Law - Level 3 (30 glh)	188
	TUC Employment Law - Level 2 (60 glh)	376
	TUC Employment Law - Level 3 (60 glh)	376
	Diploma for Trade Union Representatives - Employment Law (QCF)—Level 2	2,254
	Diploma for Trade Union Representatives - Employment Law (QCF)—Level 3	1,623
Equality	TUC Equality - Level 2 (9 glh)	56
	TUC Equality - Level 3 (9 glh)	56
	TUC Equality - Level 2 (12 glh)	75
	TUC Equality - Level 3 (12 glh)	75
	TUC Equality - Level 2 (18 glh)	113
	TUC Equality - Level 3(18 glh)	113

Trade Union Council Education Union Professional Development Programme	*Learning aim title*	*2009/10 funding rate (£)*
	TUC Equality - Level 2 (30 glh)	188
	TUC Equality - Level 3 (30 glh)	188
	Diploma in Equalities for Trade Union Representatives - Level 3	[1]
Pensions	TUC Pensions - Level 2 (9 glh)	56
	TUC Pensions - Level 3 (9 glh)	56
	TUC Pensions - Level 2 (18 glh)	113
	TUC Pension - Level 3 (18 glh)	113
	TUC Pensions - Level 2 (30 glh)	188
	TUC Pensions - Level 3 (30 glh)	188
	TUC Pensions - Level 2 (60 glh)	376
	TUC Pensions - Level 3 (60 glh)	376
Organise! A Voice in Every Workplace	TUC Work Organisation - Level 2 (9 glh)	56
	TUC Work Organisation - Level 3 (9 glh)	56
	TUC Work Organisation - Level 2 (12 glh)	75
	TUC Work Organisation - Level 3 (12 glh)	75
	TUC Work Organisation - Level 2 (18 glh)	113
	TUC Work Organisation - Level 3 (18 glh)	113
	TUC Work Organisation - Level 2 (30 glh)	188
	TUC Work Organisation - Level 3 (30 glh)	188
	Certificate for the Trade Union Organising Academy (QCF) - Level 3	[1]
	Diploma in Trade Union Organising Academy (QCF) - Level 3	[1]
	Certificate in TUC Organising Academy (Stage 2) (QCF) - Level 3	1,146
	Diploma in TUC Organising Academy (QCF) - Level 3	2,122
	Certificate in TUC Organising Academy (QCF) - Level 3	977
	Certificate in Organising and Recruitment for Trade Unions (QCF) - Level 3	933
	Diploma in Organising and Recruitment for Trade Unions (QCF) - Level 3	1,803
	Diploma in Organising and Recruitment for Trade Unions (QCF) - Level 2	1,966

[1] Indicates a non-applicable funding rate.

Notes:

1. Funding rates are rounded to the nearest whole value.
2. These data represent the funding rates of specific aim titles which relate to the title of the TUC Education Union Professional Development Programme courses. If courses listed in the Professional Development Programme are not included here, they are either not funded by the Skills Funding Agency or a learning aim that corresponds to the course title cannot be easily identified.
3. The funding rates represent the notional level of funding for a particular qualification. They do not necessarily represent the actual amount of funding paid to providers. This is because allocations are made at provider level based on aggregated data, so can not be disaggregated to qualification level.
4. Guided Learning Hours (glh) are defined as the total time a member of staff is present to give specific guidance towards the learning aim being studied on a programme.
5. For more information on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) please see the following link:
http://qcf.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/

Source:

Skills Funding Agency data.

UK Green Investment Committee

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills who the members of the UK Green Investments Committee are. [87100]

Mr Prisk: I have established an Investment Committee, including members of the Industrial Development Advisory Board, to advise me on investment proposals made by UK Green Investments. The Investment Committee, which will be chaired by Fred Maroudas, currently BAA Treasurer, will have members from both the private sector and government with expertise in project finance.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Waiting Lists

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate his Department has made of average accident and emergency waiting times at *(a)* South London Healthcare NHS Trust, *(b)* Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust and *(c)* Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust. [86751]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected in the format requested. The following table sets out the median time, in minutes, spent by patients in accident and emergency (A&E) departments at the

three trusts. All figures shown are the latest available and are for the month of July 2011.

Trust	Median	Minutes 95th percentile
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	145	310
Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust	126	236
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	136	238

Source:
These data are published every month by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care on behalf of the Department of Health. The data extraction and analysis is done by Urgent and Emergency Care Team analysts in the Department of Health. This information is available from the NHS Information Centre's website at:
www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/hospital-care/accident-and-emergency-hospital-episode-statistics-hes/provisional-accident-and-emergency-quality-indicators-for-england-experimental-statistics-by-provider-for-july-2011.

A&E Clinical Quality Indicators (CQIs) were announced and implemented from April 2011. These are a broad set of measures on A&E performance including patient experience and clinical outcomes as well as waiting times. The CQIs were developed with input from senior clinicians and other stakeholders and were designed to move away from the previous narrow focus on time spent in A&E.

The median average is the middle value of a list of values sorted from lowest to highest and shows how long on average patients spend in A&E from arrival to discharge, admission or transfer. The 95th percentile is the waiting time for the 95th patient out of every 100, where patients are ordered from lowest waiting time (patient 1) to highest waiting time (patient 100). Therefore, 95% of patients have a waiting time equal to or below the 95th percentile.

Anti-depressants

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether anti-depressants are included in the review of policy on addiction to prescribed medication; and for what reasons. [87386]

Anne Milton: The Government's Drugs Strategy seeks to tackle dependence on all drugs, including prescription and over-the-counter drugs. We are leading work to prevent and tackle addiction to prescribed and over-the-counter medicine, including anti-depressants.

Winter Deaths

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has held with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the contribution of energy-efficient housing to the Government's strategy to reduce excess winter deaths. [86962]

Anne Milton: The benefits of improved housing energy efficiency have been discussed by officials during development of the Cold Weather Plan and Warm Homes, Healthy People Fund.

The Warm Homes, Healthy People Fund will support local authorities, working with their local community, the voluntary sector and statutory organisations in the coming winter to reduce the levels of death and morbidity which are due to vulnerable people living in cold housing.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications for Warm Homes, Healthy People funding his Department has received from local authorities; and how many grants will be awarded. [86964]

Anne Milton: The Department has received 167 proposals for funding from top tier local authorities and departmental officials are currently sifting and examining the applications. We will be looking at the proposals and will decide which ones are suitable to be authorised.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to provide Warm Homes Healthy People funding in *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2013, *(c)* 2014 and *(d)* 2015; and what assessment he has made of whether in future years there should be an earlier closing date for applications. [86965]

Anne Milton: The Department continually examines all policies and will look at the effectiveness and success of the Cold Weather Plan, including Warm Homes, Healthy People fund, as part of that process. We will examine how effective the programme is in targeting help at the most vulnerable people in order to reduce death and morbidity this winter and in future years. Departmental officials will aim to ensure that adequate time is available for applications to be received and processed.

Dementia: Health Services

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his proposed reforms of the NHS on dementia care for the elderly. [87211]

Paul Burstow: Improving the quality of care for people with dementia and their carers is a priority for this Government. Last year we launched a new outcomes focused implementation plan for the National Dementia Strategy. This makes clear our commitment to accelerate the pace of improvement through a greater focus on local delivery and local accountability and empowering citizens to hold local organisations to account.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [86998]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has spent £501,676 on food and beverages in the year October 2010 to September 2011.

Official Hospitality

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on hospitality since May 2010. [87156]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has spent £785,510 on hospitality since May 2010. This figure includes that spent by arm's length bodies and other sponsored visitors using the Department's buildings.

Epilepsy: Health Services

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of whether the West Midlands Specialised Commissioning Group is following expert clinical opinion in its commissioning policy on vagus nerve stimulation for patients with refractive epilepsy. [87115]

Paul Burstow: Regional specialised commissioning groups are accountable to their primary care trusts on all matters of governance.

Health Services: Internet

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to promote access to online health care services for *(a)* patients and *(b)* informal carers and family members. [87420]

Mr Simon Burns: Further to our public consultation on an Information Revolution for health and adult social care, the Department is working to publish the subsequent Information Strategy by April 2012. Access to online health care services for patients and other service users, as well as carers, is being considered as part of the development of the Information Strategy.

Health Services: Private Sector

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations that provide private healthcare services *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department has met since May 2010; and on what date each such meeting took place. [87076]

Mr Simon Burns: Details of all ministerial meetings with external parties are published quarterly in arrears on the Department's website. Data from 1 January 2010 up to the end of June 2011 can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/Departmentdirectors/DH_110759

Health Services: Cold Weather

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effect that the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill will have on his Department's Cold Weather Plan. [86963]

Anne Milton: The Cold Weather Plan (CWP) sets out a series of actions to be taken by the national health service, social care and other public agencies; as well as by individuals and local communities, to minimise the effects of severe cold weather on health. The reforms in the Health and Social Care Bill should ensure that delivery of the CWP is more effective in the future.

At a national level, the Secretary of State for Health, will have responsibility for the protection of health. In practice, Public Health England (PHE) will exercise these functions. PHE will bring together a fragmented system, strengthen the national response on health protection and support delivery across the three domains of public health through information, evidence, surveillance and professional leadership. PHE will have a key role in producing future CWPs and advising local organisations on implementation.

At a local level, the Bill gives local authorities responsibility for setting up health and wellbeing boards which will strengthen the strategic co-ordination of services between local authorities and the NHS. Excess seasonal mortality planning at national level will be supported by PHE to complement delivery of services locally.

Herbal Medicine

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have met representatives of (i) Schwabe Pharma UK Ltd and (ii) the Safer Herbal Medicines Campaign in the last six months. [87621]

Mr Simon Burns: Ministers and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have not held a meeting with the Safer Herbal Medicines Campaign or Schwabe Pharma UK in the last six months. MHRA has periodic meetings with representative bodies, including trade associations, from the herbal sector and such organisations will sometimes be represented by individuals from specific companies.

HIV Infection

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government plan to take to tackle HIV stigma; and if he will make a statement. [87122]

Anne Milton: Tackling the stigma that can be associated with HIV is very important. Men who have sex with men and people from Black African communities are most at risk from HIV and the Department funds organisations that produce innovative programmes of work to help tackle stigma directed towards these groups.

The African Health Policy Network, through the Department's national HIV prevention programme has developed resources for Christian and Muslim faith leaders and African community based organisations. These faith toolkits are used to increase levels of awareness around HIV and to change perceptions of HIV and Africans in the United Kingdom.

In addition, the Department's new Sexual Health Policy Framework planned for next year will consider how work can be undertaken at all levels to reduce and challenge HIV stigma.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average rate of incidence of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* other hospital acquired infections was in each strategic health authority in each year since 1997. [86754]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not available.

The annual numbers of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bloodstream infections and Clostridium difficile infections (CDI) attributed to primary care organisations within each strategic health authority are provided for the periods for which they are available.

MRSA bloodstream infections attributed to primary care organisations by strategic health authority

Strategic health authority	April 2008 to March 2009	April 2009 to March 2010	Number April 2010 to March 2011
East of England	242	167	122
East midlands	209	157	102
London	509	363	298
North-east	181	81	64
North-west	412	301	232
South central	158	103	84
South-east	263	174	135
South-west	298	173	108
West midlands	307	161	157
Yorkshire and the Humber	356	218	179

Total reported C. difficile infections attributed to primary care organisations by strategic health authority

Strategic health authority	April 2007 to March 2008	April 2008 to March 2009	April 2009 to March 2010	Number April 2010 to March 2011
East of England	5,764	2,916	2,378	1,784
East midlands	4,166	2,783	2,201	1,906
London	6,482	3,882	2,669	2,503
North-east	3,229	2,598	1,799	1,191
North-west	9,587	6,698	4,892	3,830
South central	3,786	2,571	1,839	1,612
South-east	4,235	2,667	1,839	1,699
South-west	6,138	3,831	2,508	2,242
West midlands	6,959	4,074	3,039	2,624
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,152	4,075	2,440	2,304

Notes:
1. All included data cover financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11 for MRSA bloodstream infection and 2007-08 to 2010-11 for CDI. These are the time periods when it has been possible to estimate trust apportioned cases. Estimates of trust apportioned cases use patient location and specimen date and require patient level data. Collection of these data was introduced for MRSA and CDI in 2008 and 2007 respectively.
2. Data for methicillin sensitive Staphylococcus aureus and E. coli bacteremias are not provided as mandatory patient level surveillance only commenced in 2011 (January and June respectively) and full year data are not yet available.
3. Primary care organisation and SHA rates are not routinely produced.

Source:
Health Protection Agency's Healthcare Associated Infections Data Capture System on 21 April 2011.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidences of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* other hospital acquired infections there have been in (i) Ipswich hospital, (ii) West Suffolk hospital, (iii) Suffolk Primary Care Trust and (iv) the East of England Strategic Health Authority since 1997. [86755]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected.

Data available from 2008 for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bloodstream infections and from 2007 for Clostridium difficile (CDI) infections are given in the following tables.

Annual counts and rates (per 100,000 bed days) for MRSA bloodstream infections attributed to Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust and West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust

NHS Trust	April 2008 to March 2009		April 2009 to March 2010		April 2010 to March 2011	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	3	1.6	5	2.6	1	0.5
West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust	6	4.1	6	4.2	9	0.0

MRSA bloodstream infections reports attributed to Suffolk Primary Care Trust (PCT)

	April 2008 to March 2009	April 2009 to March 2010	April 2010 to March 2011
Suffolk PCT	29	20	9

MRSA bloodstream infections reports attributed to the East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA)

	April 2008 to March 2009	April 2009 to March 2010	April 2010 to March 2011
East of England SHA	242	167	122

Annual counts and rates (per 100,000 bed days) for Clostridium difficile reports for patients aged two and over attributed to Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust and West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust

	April 2007 to March 2008		April 2008 to March 2009		April 2009 to March 2010		April 2010 to March 2011	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	252	135.3	129	71.2	66	38.4	49	28.5
West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust	167	113.0	69	46.9	43	30.4	37	26.1

Clostridium difficile reports attributed to the Suffolk PCT

	April 2007 to March 2008	April 2008 to March 2009	April 2009 to March 2010	April 2010 to March 2011
Suffolk PCT	822	489	270	258

Clostridium difficile reports attributed to the East of SHA

	April 2007 to March 2008	April 2008 to March 2009	April 2009 to March 2010	April 2010 to March 2011
East of England SHA	5,764	2,916	2,378	1,784

Notes:
1. All included data cover financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11 for MRSA bloodstream infection and 2007-08 to 2010-11 for CDI infections. These are the time periods when it has been possible to estimate trust apportioned cases. Estimates of trust apportioned cases use patient location and specimen date and require patient level data. Collection of these data was introduced for MRSA and CDI in 2008 and 2007 respectively.
2. Data for methicillin sensitive *Staphylococcus* aureus and E. Coli bacteraemias are not provided as mandatory patient level surveillance only commenced in 2011 (January and June respectively) and full year data are not yet available.
3. Primary care organisation and SHA rates are not routinely produced.

Source:
Health Protection Agency's Healthcare Associated Infections Data Capture System on 21 April 2011.

Mass Media

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 417W, on mass media, how much his Department has spent on media monitoring in each of the last five years. [86959]

Mr Simon Burns: The amount the Department's media centre spent on media monitoring in each of the last five years is provided in the following tables.

Department of Health

Financial year	Spend on press cuttings[1] (£)
2006-07	186,726.95
2007-08	130,126.92
2008-09	119,180.72
2009-10	133,055.81
2010-11	120,185.79

[1] The figures provided above are all inclusive of VAT.

Department of Health

Financial year	Spend on media monitoring (£)
2006-07	115,504.42
2007-08	113,657.00
2008-09	117,070.00
2009-10	133,106.90

Department of Health

Financial year	Spend on media monitoring (£)
2010-11	96,608.92

The figures for press cuttings and media monitoring from 2009-10 onwards also include spend for Connecting for Health, which joined the Department's media centre from NHS Connecting for Health, following the merger of the media relations functions of the two organisations in April 2009.

Mental Health: Patients

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 have been released in each of the last five years. [86687]

Paul Burstow: The only central data collection on detention under the Mental Health Act 1983 (the Act) collects the number of uses of detention under the various sections of the Act each year. Therefore, the number of patients whose status has changed from detained to voluntary in each of the last five years has been provided in the following table:

Changes in legal status of patients detained under Mental Health Act 1983 and to an informal (voluntary) status in national health service facilities and independent hospitals, 2006-07 to 2010-11

					Number of changes in status
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
NHS facilities					
From short-term sections					
5(2) to informal	2,813	2,936	2,764	3,022	3,375
5(4) to informal	364	332	366	485	531
4 to informal	286	201	155	133	131
136 to informal	4,406	4,939	6,236	9,211	10,753

Changes in legal status of patients detained under Mental Health Act 1983 and to an informal (voluntary) status in national health service facilities and independent hospitals, 2006-07 to 2010-11

Number of changes in status

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Other changes					
2 to informal	15,593	16,224	16,702:	18,335	19,226
3 to informal	17,581	16,923	16,247	13,552	14,488
35 to informal	53	65	58	38	29
37 to informal	352	330	321	326	335
NHS facilities total	41,448	41,950	42,849	45,102	48,868
Independent hospitals					
From short term sections					
5(2) to informal	57	67	68	56	57
5(4) to informal	3	3	4	7	7
4 to informal	0	0	1	2	0
136 to informal	0	0	0	0	1
Other changes					
2 to informal	151	187	233	250	230
3 to informal	241	249	276	279	248
35 to informal	1	12	10	6	2
37 to informal	23	20	18	22	19
Independent hospitals total	476	538	610	622	564
All facilities total	41,924	42,488	43,459	45,724	49,432

Note: The full KP90 publication is available here: www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/inpatientdetmha1011 *Source:* Tables 6a and 6b from the Inpatient Reference Tables 1011, KP90 2010-11, The NHS Information Centre.

NHS Foundation Trusts: Finance

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure that Monitor properly exercises its role as a regulatory body in respect of NHS foundation trusts assessed as being at high financial risk; and if he will make a statement. [86969]

Mr Simon Burns: Monitor is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts and is directly accountable to Parliament. It was established in 2004 and its current powers of intervention, including the means by which finance is regulated and risk is assessed, are determined by section 52 of the NHS Act 2006. Giving NHS foundation trusts autonomy in how they operate to deliver responsive and locally shaped services is underpinned by this independent and proportionate regulatory model.

NHS Litigation Authority

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Cabinet Office on the mutualisation of the NHS Litigation Authority; and if he will make a statement; [87055]

(2) what plans he has for the mutualisation of the NHS Litigation Authority; whether those plans include proposals to ask doctors to take out individual insurance for legal expenses; and if he will make a statement. [87069]

Mr Simon Burns: There have been no discussions between the Department and Cabinet Office Ministers on this issue.

Officials from the Cabinet Office and the Department held very limited and provisional discussions on the issue of possible mutualisation of the NHS Litigation Authority. Similar preliminary discussions were held between the Cabinet Office officials and the NHS Litigation Authority's senior management.

There are no plans to mutualise the NHS Litigation Authority, and no plans for further discussions on the issue between the Department and the Cabinet Office.

NHS: Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any *(a)* Chief Executives, *(b)* Chairs or *(c)* Board members of an NHS Trust in London are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will make a statement. [87137]

Mr Simon Burns: The arrangements for paying executive and non-executive directors in national health service trusts are matters for the trusts themselves and their independent remuneration committees. Trusts are required to disclose the remuneration of their board members in their annual accounts.

NHS: Private Patients

Mr Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of referrals to the NHS from private health providers being made via the patient's GP without any unconnected conditions having been identified during treatment. [86808]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS appointments that resulted from a referral to the NHS from private health providers being made via a GP, in the most recent period for which figures are available. [86809]

Mr Simon Burns: Data relating to the number of national health service appointments that resulted from a referral to the NHS from private health providers being made via a general practitioner are not collected centrally.

Mr Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his Department's policy is on the referral of patients to the NHS from private health providers via a GP without any unconnected conditions having been identified during treatment; and if he will make a statement; [86810]

(2) what representations he has received on the practice of acute trust managers requiring referrals to the NHS from private health providers to be made via a GP when no unconnected conditions have been identified during treatment. [86811]

Mr Simon Burns: Referrals to national health services where treatment will be funded by the NHS—other than for emergencies—should involve the patient's general practitioner. A trawl of the Department's correspondence database has not identified any representations on this matter.

Nurses: Standards

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to increase the standard of hospital nursing care. [86830]

Anne Milton: At the heart of the health care reforms is a focus on improving the quality and outcomes of health care for patients. One of the NHS Commissioning Board's roles will be to provide national leadership in driving up the quality of care. The board, along with clinical commissioning groups, will have a legal duty to secure continuous improvement in the quality of services and outcomes. The chief nursing officer will have a specific remit to improve the safety and people's experience of nursing care.

There is a great deal of best practice guidance and resources in place that support the delivery of high quality, safe and effective care. The Energising for Excellence Framework being taken forward by the strategic health authority chief nurses, is a total quality approach to improving care. The 'Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2012/13' includes requirements to improve the care of older people and dignity and respect; a national Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) goal relating to the use of the safety thermometer will help focus commissioners and providers on reducing the harm from pressure ulcers, falls, catheter-related infections and blood clots.

Nutrition

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the research conducted by the Schools Health Education Unit on the number of women aged between 14 and 15 years who would like to lose weight; and if he will consider the implications of its findings for public health policy. [87447]

Anne Milton: The Department takes relevant research into account in developing public health policy and will consider the research by the Schools Health Education Unit.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with Monitor on the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's financial deficit for 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [86970]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, discussed Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in a telephone conversation with the chairman of Monitor on 29 November 2011. The Department's Ministers have not had discussions with Monitor. Richard Douglas, Director General Policy, Strategy and Finance has regular contact with the chairman of Monitor and other Monitor officials and Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been part of those discussions. Meetings and telephone calls specifically to discuss the trust have been held on 6 October, 18 October, 25 October, 28 November and 8 December 2011. The later two were meetings attended by Richard Douglas and David Flory, deputy NHS chief executive. Sir David Nicholson, NHS chief executive discussed the trust with the chairman of Monitor on 6 December 2011.

The independent regulator, Monitor, is working with the Peterborough and Stamford NHS Foundation Trust to ensure that the trust has a financial recovery plan and moves to a position where it will meet its terms of authorisation.

Rehabilitation Centres

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to develop and promote vocational rehabilitation services. [85761]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

We have cross-Government programmes of activity to help working-age people with a health condition or disability remain in or return to work.

Access to Work assists people with a disability or health condition to stay in work or start paid employment. Access to Work provides support towards the cost of equipment an individual needs at work; including a communicator at job interviews, adapting premises to meet an individual's needs, or paying a support worker. It can also pay towards the cost of getting to work if an individual cannot use public transport.

The Health, Work and Wellbeing programme is a co-ordinated approach to health and employment issues, and includes action to support:

Employers—support to deal effectively with health issues and sickness absence among employees, including Health, Work and Wellbeing Co-ordinators, occupational health advice services for

small and medium-sized businesses and the Department of Health's Public Health Responsibility Deal Health at Work Network which aims to reinforce the positive link between health and work;

Individuals—support to remain in or return to work when health issues arise, such as the case-managed multidisciplinary Fit for Work Service pilots. The Royal Colleges of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, of Psychiatry, and of Surgeons have developed, in partnership with my Department, guidance for individuals and healthcare professionals about returning to work following a surgical procedure or a period of mental ill health; and

Healthcare Professionals—support for provision of good quality back-to-work advice to patients, such as the "fit note" which allows the GP to provide a greater focus on what people can do rather than what they cannot. In addition, the Royal College of General Practitioners has rolled out a programme of GP health and work training, following a successful pilot delivered in partnership with my Department.

Skin Cancer

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider including skin checks in the NHS Health Check for adults over the age of 40; and if he will make a statement. [87415]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Health Check programme is a national public health programme for people in England aged 40 to 74. The purpose of the programme is to identify an individual's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes, and for that risk to be managed through appropriate follow up. We continue to keep the components of the NHS Health Check under review but have no plans to include skin checks at this time.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to raise awareness of the long-term consequences and severity of skin damage caused by regular exposure to the sun; [87416]

(2) what information his Department holds on the primary causes of *(a)* non-melanoma and *(b)* malignant melanoma skin cancer; and if he will make a statement; [87417]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to improve early diagnosis of conditions that are potential markers for skin cancer; and if he will make a statement; [87418]

(4) what information his Department holds on the cost to the NHS of treatment and management of *(a)* non-melanoma and *(b)* malignant melanoma skin cancer; and if he will make a statement. [87419]

Paul Burstow: The primary cause of both non-melanoma and malignant melanoma skin cancer is exposure to ultra-violet radiation from the sun or from artificial sources, such as sunbeds.

In 2011-12, to provide information and advice to the public and health professionals, we have funded SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention campaign. SunSmart activities have included producing and distributing educational materials, organising a schools campaign, providing support to local providers working on skin cancer prevention and a major targeted marketing campaign in conjunction with a popular music festival.

The SunSmart website also provides additional information about how to reduce your risk of skin cancer as well as how to spot the symptoms of the disease at:

www.sunsmart.org.uk

Information on the causes of non-melanoma and malignant melanoma can also be found on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Cancer-of-the-skin/Pages/Causes.aspx

and at

www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Malignant-melanoma/Pages/Causes.aspx

The Department has also published implementation guidance for local authorities on the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 and information for sunbed businesses. The purpose of the Act is to prevent those under 18 years from being allowed to use sunbeds in commercial premises.

To support the national health service in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with skin cancer, in 2006 the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published 'Improving Outcomes for People with Skin Tumours Including Melanoma'. We have made it clear that this NICE guidance will continue to be a feature of all commissioned cancer services.

The following table shows the estimated NHS expenditure on the treatment and management of skin cancer in England for financial years 2006-07 to 2010-11. This figure includes expenditure on both non-melanoma and malignant melanoma but it is not possible to break this figure down to identify expenditure on a particular type of skin cancer. It is also not currently possible to estimate expenditure on chemotherapy and radiotherapy by cancer type. Expenditure on these treatments is therefore included within the 'Cancers and Tumour—Other' category.

In addition, expenditure on some services areas or activities is excluded if it is not possible to make a reasonable estimation of expenditure by specific disease area. For this reason expenditure on general practitioner (GP) services, diagnostics and some out-patient services are excluded from estimates of expenditure on cancers and tumours.

Expenditure figures are from estimated England level programme budgeting data, which are calculated using primary care trust and strategic health authority programme budgeting returns and Department resource accounts data. Figures also include an estimation of special health authority expenditure.

Gross expenditure (£ billion)

Programme budgeting category	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Cancers and tumours—Skin	0.10	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.12
Cancers and tumours—Other	1.93	2.32	2.39	2.75	3.06

As part of our programme of work to deliver earlier diagnosis of cancer, to improve survival rates, a range of actions has been undertaken to support GPs in referring appropriate patients to secondary care. We are also in

the process of considering further possible action to improve the public's awareness of the symptoms of the less common cancers.

Smoking: Motor Vehicles

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what targets he has set for the Tobacco Control Plan; whether a behaviour change plan has been produced to reduce smoking in cars around children; and what steps he plans to take to evaluate the effect of such a plan on parents' behaviour; [86974]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to work with the national media to raise awareness of the risks in exposing children to second-hand smoke. [87224]

Anne Milton: The Tobacco Control Plan, published in March, sets out three national ambitions: to reduce adult (aged 18 or over) smoking prevalence in England to 18.5% or less by the end of 2015 (from 21.2%); to reduce rates of regular smoking among 15-year-olds in England to 12% or less (from 15%) by the end of 2015; and to reduce rates of smoking throughout pregnancy to 11% or less (from 14%) by the end of 2015 (measured at time of giving birth).

The plan also includes a number of commitments to help drive down smoking rates and reduce the harms from tobacco over the next five years. These include the launch of a national marketing campaign, planned for spring 2012, to remind smokers of the risks of exposing children and adults to second-hand smoke so that they take action to make their homes and cars smokefree. We will evaluate the impact of the campaign on smokers' behaviour.

Social Enterprises

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 839W, on the public sector, when each of the 45 staff-led social enterprises was established; and if he will make a statement. [87572]

Mr Simon Burns: Since its introduction in 2008, 40 social enterprises have been established under the right to request policy by national health service staff working in primary and community care.

These social enterprises comprise approximately 10% of community staff and 11% of the community services budget. The following table lists the organisations and their go-live dates (as of 30 November 2011).

Right to request waves[1]

First wave

Trust	*Social enterprise*	*Go live date*
North East Essex	Anglian Community Enterprise	Live: 1 January 2011
Mid Essex	Central Essex Community Services	Live: 1 April 2011
Bedfordshire	Community Dental Services CIC	Live: 4 April 2011
Bedfordshire	Sunnyhill Health Care CIC	Live: 1 April 2011
Norfolk	Horizon Health CIC	Live: 18 April 2011
Leicester City	Inclusion Healthcare	Live: 1 September 2010
Derby City	Ripplez	Live: 1 April 2011
Bromley	Bromley Healthcare	Live: 1 April 2011
Kingston	Your Healthcare	Live: 2 August 2010
Salford	Social Adventures Ltd	Live: 1 April 2011
Medway	Medway Community Healthcare	Live: 1 April 2011
Hull	City Health Care Partnership CIC	Live: 1 June 2010
Wakefield	Spectrum Community Health	Live: 1 April 2011
NE Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	NAViGO Health and Social Care CIC	Live: 1 April 2011

Second wave

Trust	*Social enterprise*	*Go live date*
Salford PCT	Six Degrees Social Enterprise	Live: 1 August 2011
Bristol PCT (Bristol Community Health)	Bristol Community Health CIC	Live: 1 October 2011
Devon	Chime Audiology	Live: 1 May 2011
Swindon	Care and Support Partnership (SEQOL—Social Enterprise Quality of Life)	Live: 1 October 2011
Birmingham East and North PCT	John Taylor Hospice CIC	Live: 1 October 2011
NHS Bradford and Airedale (interpreting)	Enable2 CIC	Live: 1 October 2011
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus (NEL CTP)	Care Plus Group (North East Lincolnshire) Ltd	Live: 1 July 2011
Rotherham	Gateway Primary Care CIC	Live: 1 April 2011

Third wave

Trust	*Social enterprise*	*Go live date*
Nottingham	Nottingham CityCare Partnership	Live: 1 April 2011
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	East Coast Community Healthcare CIC	Live: 1 October 2011
Hertfordshire	Health Inclusion Matters CIC (trading as Meadowell)	Live: 1 October 2011
Luton	CHUMS CIC	Live: 17 June 2011
Suffolk	Allied Health Professionals Suffolk CIC	Live: 1 July 2011
Hillingdon	The Orchard Medical Practice CIC	Live: 1 November ,2011

Trust	Third wave Social enterprise	Go live date
Tower Hamlets (wound healing)	Accelerate Health CIC (Trading as Accelerate CIC	Live: 1 November 2011
Bolton	Bolton Community Practice CIC	Live: 1 April 2011
Buckinghamshire	The Healthy Living Centre CIC	Live: 1 April 2011
Isle of Wight	The Phoenix Project	Live: 1 June 2011
Surrey	First Community Health and Care CIC	Live: 1 October 2011
Bath and North East Somerset	Sirona Health and Care CIC	Live: 1 October 2011
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	Peninsula Community Health CIC	Live: 1 October 2011
North Somerset	North Somerset Community Partnership CIC	Live: 1 October 2011
Plymouth	Plymouth Community Healthcare CIC	Live: 1 October 2011
Dudley	Lymphcare UK	Live: 2 November 2011
Bradford and Airedale	Bevan Healthcare CIC	Live: 1 September 2011
Kirklees	Locala Community Partnerships CIC	Live: 1 October 2011

[1] Data accurate is as of 30 November 2011 and is subject to change.

Streptococcus

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance is issued to health care professionals on preventing group B streptococcal infection in newborn babies; and when this guidance was last updated; [87182]

(2) what information his Department holds on the number of cases of group B streptococcal infection in babies aged *(a)* zero to six days and *(b)* seven to 90 days in each constituent part of the UK since 2003. [87213]

Anne Milton: Current guidance for obstetricians, midwives and neonatologists is provided by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), which published its Green-top guideline No. 36 on the prevention of early-onset neonatal group B streptococcus disease in November 2003.

Information on the number of cases of group B streptococcal infection in babies is not collected centrally by the Department. The following table sets out information published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) on the number of laboratory-confirmed group B streptococcal bacteraemia reports submitted by laboratories in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The HPA does not collect data for Scotland.

	0-6 days				7-90 days			
	England	Northern Ireland	Wales	England, Wales and Northern Ireland	England	Northern Ireland	Wales	England, Wales and Northern Ireland
2010	271	17	14	302	181	9	14	204
2009	246	11	10	267	182	13	9	204
2008	262	11	6	279	177	7	7	191
2007	235	13	10	258	148	7	8	163
2006	221	10	17	248	145	8	8	161
2005	187	9	11	207	121	3	7	131
2004	189	11	7	207	93	3	8	104
2003	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	229	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	111

[1] Not available for every constituent country separately.
Source:
All data sourced from annual Commun Dis Rep/Health Protection Rep articles found on: www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/StreptococcalInfections/EpidemiologicalData/

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received on group B streptococcus screening since May 2010. [87183]

Anne Milton: The Department receives representations periodically. A search of the Department's ministerial correspondence database has identified 39 items of correspondence received since May 2010 about group B streptococcus (GBS) screening. This figure represents correspondence received by the Department's central correspondence team only. Two of the letters received were petitions of which one was specifically about GBS screening and was signed by 1,560 people. The other was about maternity care and was signed by 1,022 people.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned on the benefits of group B streptococcus testing in pregnancy in the last five years. [87184]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme has funded the following studies during the last five years:

pre-natal screening and treatment strategies to prevent group B. streptococcal and other bacterial infections in early infancy: cost-effectiveness and expected value of information analyses; and

rapid testing for group B streptococcus during labour: a test accuracy study with evaluation of acceptability and cost-effectiveness.

Reports of these studies can be found on the HTA website at:

www.hta.ac.uk/project/1473.asp

and

www.hta.ac.uk/project/1388.asp

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department has collected on the effect of introducing group B streptococcus screening on levels of infection in babies in *(a)* the US, *(b)* Canada, *(c)* Australia, *(d)* France, *(e)* Italy, *(f)* Spain and *(g)* other countries. [87185]

Anne Milton: The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises Ministers and the national health service in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy and supports implementation. Using research evidence, pilot programmes and economic evaluation, it assesses the evidence for programmes against a set of internationally recognised criteria.

As the UK NSC advise the Department on screening policy for group B streptococcus (GBS) in pregnancy the Department does not collect or hold data on GBS screening centrally.

JUSTICE

Departmental Expenditure: Christmas

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas events and *(b)* decorations at each of his Department's buildings in 2011. [87444]

Mr Blunt: The Department and its agencies, Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian have not incurred any expenditure on Christmas events and decorations at any of their buildings in 2011. The small number of Christmas decorations which have been placed in reception areas have been recycled from previous years.

In respect of the Department's other executive agency, the National Offender Management Service, no central records are maintained. To provide information on the amount spent on Christmas events and decorations in individual prisons would involve incurring disproportionate cost.

The Department and its agencies do not fund Christmas parties for staff, although staff may personally contribute towards the cost of such events.

Civil Disorder

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of offenders convicted of crimes in relation to the public disorder in August 2011 had received an out-of-court disposal in relation to previous offences. [84415]

Mr Blunt: Of those offenders convicted as of midday 12 October 2011 in relation to the public disorder of 6-9 August 2011 an estimated 57% (393) had at least one previous caution.

More detail on the criminal history of individuals appearing before the court in relation to the public disorder can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/criminal-justice/public-disorder-august-11.htm

As with any large-scale recording system the police national computer is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to announce the appointment of a new Victims' Commissioner. [87542]

Mr Blunt: We are considering the future of the role.

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) his Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by his Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84178]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Staffing levels reflect the size and complexity of the Department and its public bodies and the need to communicate effectively on a wide range of issues and services

The information required is set out in the following table and represents communication posts as at 1 November 2011. Roles which encompass more than one communications discipline have been placed in the most suitable category. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Press Office also handles media relations for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS).

Department and its bodies	*Press officers*	*Internal communication officers*	*External communications officers*	*Communications strategy officers*	*Other positions with a comms remit*
Ministry of Justice	30	9	4	1	32.6
National Offender Management Service	0	19	0	2	0
Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service	2	6	3	0	0
Office of the Public Guardian	0	2	1	1	1
Legal Services Commission	2	3	3	0	5
Victims' Commissioner	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	0	0	0	0	2
Criminal Cases Review Commission	0	0	0	0	1
Court Funds Office Legal Services Board	0	0	0	0	1

Department and its bodies	Press officers	Internal communication officers	External communications officers	Communications strategy officers	Other positions with a comms remit
Information Commissioner	3	1	3.5	0.5	3
Office for Legal Complaints	1	0	0	1	1
Judicial Communications Office	2	2	2	0	0
Judicial Appointments Commission	0	0.5	0	2.5	0
Youth Justice Board	2.8	1	0	1	4
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation—shared resource between both inspectorates	0.7	0	0	0	0
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman	0	0	0	0	0.5
Independent Monitoring Boards Secretariat	0	0	0	0	2
Law Commission	0	0.5	0	0	0.7
Parole Board	0	2	0	0	0
Total	43.5	46	16.5	9	53.8

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service was created on 1 April 2011.

Unfortunately, the figures given in answer to PQ 38963 on 9 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 242-44W, on the same subject did not include communication headcount for Law Commission and the Parole Board. Therefore we are issuing a correction to the table representing communication posts on 1 February 2011 in the MOJ as follows:

Department and its bodies	Press officers	Internal Communications officers	External Communications officers	Communications strategy officers	Other positions with a comms remit
Ministry of Justice	34	11	4	5	30
National Offender Management Service	0	19	0	2	0
Her Majesty's Courts Service	2	5	2	0	0
Tribunals Service	0	3	0	0	7
Office of the Public Guardian	0	2	0	1.5	1.5
Legal Services Commission	3	3	6	0	5
Victims' Commissioner	0	0	0	1	0
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	0	0	0	0	2
Criminal Cases Review Commission	0	0	0	0	1
Court Funds Office	0	0	0	0	1
Legal Services Board	0	0	0	0	1
Information Commissioner	2	0.6	7.2	0.5	0
Office for Legal Complaints	0	1	1	1	1
Judicial Communications Office	3	5	0	0	0
Judicial Appointments Commission	0	0.5	0.5	0	3
Youth Justice Board	3.8	0	0	0	7
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation	1	0	0	0	0
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman	0	0	0	0	1
Independent Monitoring Boards Secretariat	0	0	0	0	2
Law Commission	0	1	0	0	2
Parole Board	0	2	0	0	0
Total	48.8	53.1	20.7	11	64.5

Departmental Visits

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which young offenders institutes *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have visited in the last 18 months; and on what dates such visits took place; [87440]

(2) which secure children's centres *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have visited in the last 18 months; and on what dates such visits took place; [87441]

(3) what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with organisations working with offenders who misuse alcohol and/or drugs in the last 18 months; [87443]

(4) what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department has had with the Child Brain Injury Trust in the last 18 months; what the dates were of those meetings; and which Ministers were present; [87359]

(5) with which organisations working with young offenders *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have had meetings in the last 18 months; [87368]

(6) which prisons *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have visited in the last 18 months; and on which dates. [87369]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Data on visits are set out in the following tables.

My officials have provided a comprehensive list of organisations that Ministers have met, that work with young offenders or offenders who misuse alcohol and drugs, including probation trusts. Every effort has been made to ensure all relevant organisations have been included. The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly information which includes meetings Ministers have held with external organisations. This information can be found on the Ministry of Justice website on the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/moj/index.htm

Young offenders institutes

	Date of visit
Crispin Blunt	
Feltham	7 June 2010
Down View	16 July 2010
Glen Parva	24 September 2010
Moorland	11 November 2010
Ashfield	3 August 2010
Peterborough	10 September 2010
Isis	27 January 2011
Portland	27 July 2011
Lancaster Farms	4 August 2011
Nick Herbert	
Feltham	18 November 2010

Secure children's centres[1]

	Date of visit
Kenneth Clarke	
Clayfields House secure children's home	14 October 2011
Crispin Blunt	
Medway secure training centre	25 June 2010
Vinney Green secure children's home	3 August 2010
Lord McNally	
Medway secure training centre	30 September 2010

[1] Officials have provided information on visits to secure children's homes and secure training centres.

Meetings with organisations working with offenders who misuse alcohol and/or drugs[1]

	Date
Kenneth Clarke	
St Giles Trust	—
Prison Reform Trust	—
Nottinghamshire Probation Trust visit	7 March 2011
Changes Project at the Nottingham Women's Centre	6 May 2011
Women's Justice Taskforce and Prison Reform Trust	5 December 2011
Norfolk and Suffolk Probation Trust visit	5 December 2011
Crispin Blunt	
Surrey Youth Offending Team	—
Hammersmith and Fulham Youth Offending Team	—
Northern Ireland Restorative Justice	—
Lambeth Youth Offending Team	—
Youth Justice Service Managers Conference	—
Slough College	—
Howard League for Penal Reform	—
St Giles Trust	—
UNLOCK	—
NACRO	—
Green Pastures	—
Centre for Social Justice	—
Young Offender Academy and Natural Justice	—
NSPCC	—
Exeter Drugs project	—
Catch 22	—
Tomorrow's Training Co.	—
Youth Support Service	—
Sova	—
Novas Scarman	—
Shelter	—
Safe Ground	—
Sainsbury's Centre for Mental Health	—
North East London NHS Trust	—
Children's Society	—
Prince's Trust	—
National Children's Bureau	—
User Voice	—
Start Here	—
Rehabilitation for Addicted Prisoner's Trust	—
Prison Reform Trust	—
Corston Independent Funders Coalition	—
Homeless Link	—
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	—
ACEVO	—
PAPYRUS	—
Probation visits:	
Thames Valley Probation Trust	29 July 2011
Essex Probation Trust	30 July 2011
Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust	4 August 2011
Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust	23 September 2011
Crewe Probation	14 October 2011
Yorkshire and Humberside Probation Trust	11 November 2011
London Probation Trust	25 November 2011
Avon and Somerset Probation Trust	11 February 2011
West Mercia Probation Trust	10 March 2011
West Midlands Probation Trust	11 March 2011
Devon and Cornwall Probation Trust	24 March 2011
Northamptonshire Probation Trust	6 May 2011
West Yorkshire Probation Trust	12 May 2011
Dorset Probation Trust	28 July 2011
Cumbria Probation Trust	2 August 2011
Lancashire Probation Trust	3 August 2011
Norfolk and Suffolk Probation Trust	10 November 2011
Greater Manchester Probation Trust	25 November 2011
Merseyside Probation Trust	29 November 2011
Northumbria Probation Trust	14 December 2011

Meetings with organisations working with offenders who misuse alcohol and/or drugs[1]

	Date
Nick Herbert	
Prison Reform Trust	—
Lord McNally	
Turning Point—Douglas House Project	—
London Probation Trust	—
Norfolk and Suffolk Probation Trust	—
Hertfordshire Probation Trust	—

[1] Officials have included visits and probation trusts

The Child Brain Injury Trust

Ministers in my Department have not met with the Child Brain Injury Trust in the last 18 months. The Ministry of Justice does not centrally record meetings attended by all officials in the Department. To collate the information requested would exceed the cost limit for answering parliamentary questions.

Meetings with organisations working with young offenders[1]

	Date
Kenneth Clarke	
St Giles Trust	—
Nottinghamshire Probation Trust visit	7 March 2011
Crispin Blunt	
Surrey Youth Offending Team	—
Hammersmith and Fulham Youth Offending Team	—
Northern Ireland Restorative Justice	—
Catch 22	—
Lambeth Youth Offending Team	—
Youth Justice Service Managers Conference Slough College	—
Howard League for Penal Reform	—
St Giles Trust	—
UNLOCK	—
NACRO	—
Green Pastures	—
Centre for Social Justice	—
Young Offender Academy	—
Natural Justice	—
NSPCC	—
Exeter Drugs project	—
Catch 22	—
Tomorrow's Training Co,	—
Youth Support Service	—
Sova	—
Novas Scarman	—
Shelter	—
Safe Ground	—
Sainsbury's Centre for Mental Health	—
North East London NHS Trust	—
Children's Society	—
Prince's Trust	—
National Children's Bureau	—
User Voice	—
Start Here	—
Rehabilitation for Addicted Prisoner's Trust	—
Prison Reform Trust	—
Corston Independent Funders Coalition	—
Homeless Link	—

Meetings with organisations working with young offenders[1]

	Date
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	—
ACEVO	—
PAPYRUS	—
Probation visits:	
Thames Valley Probation Trust	29 July 2011
Essex Probation Trust	30 July 2011
Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust	4 August 2011
Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust	23 September 2011
Crewe Probation	14 October 2011
Yorkshire and Humberside Probation Trust	11 November 2011
London Probation Trust	25 November 2011
Avon and Somerset Probation Trust	11 February 2011
West Mercia Probation Trust	10 March 2011
West Midlands Probation Trust	11 March 2011
Devon and Cornwall Probation Trust	24 March 2011
Northamptonshire Probation Trust	6 May 2011
West Yorkshire Probation	12 May 2011
Dorset Probation Trust	28 July 2011
Cumbria Probation Trust	2 August 2011
Lancashire Probation Trust	3 August 2011
Norfolk and Suffolk Probation Trust	10 November 2011
Greater Manchester Probation Trust	25 November 2011
Merseyside Probation Trust	29 November 2011
Northumbria Probation Trust	14 November 2011
Lord McNally	
Foyer Federation	—
Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists	—
UNLOCK	—
National Grid Young Offenders' Programme	—

[1] Officials have included visits and probation trusts.

Prison visits

	Date
Kenneth Clarke	
HMP Leeds	29 June 2010
HMP Peterborough	9 September 2010
HMP High Down	1 November 2010
HMP Wormwood Scrubs	1 December 2010
HMP Wandsworth	8 December 2010
HMP Doncaster	14 January 2011
HMP Preston	10 February 2011
HMP Cardiff	12 July 2011
Crispin Blunt	
HMP Wormwood Scrubs	20 May 2010
HMP Frankland	27 May 10
HMP Coldingley	4 June 2010
HMP Grendon	2 July 2010
HMP Spring Hill	2 July 2010
HMP Downview	16 July 10
HMP Ford	4 August 2010
HMP Pentonville	5 August 2010
HMP Lowdham Grange	23 September 2010
HMP Gartree	24 September 2010
HMP Risley	14 October 2010
HMP Thorn Cross	14 October 2010
HMP Parc	4 November 2010
HMP Usk	4 November 2010

Prison visits

	Date
HMP Prescoed	5 November 2010
HMP Swansea	5 November 2010
HMP Cardiff	5 November 2010
HMP Ford	2 January 2011
HMP Belmarsh	27 January 2011
HMP Belmarsh West	27 January 2011
HMP Holloway	28 January 2011
HMP Nottingham	1 February 2011
HMP Bristol	11 February 2011
HMP Brixton	14 March 2011
HMP Exeter	24 March 2011
HMP Dartmoor	25 March 2011
HMP Channings Wood	25 March 2011
HMP Wellingborough	6 May 2011
HMP Newhall	11 May 2011
HMP Wakefield	12 May 2011
HMP Durham	19 May 2011
HMP Woodhill	9 June 2011
HMP Dorchester	27 July 2011
HMP The Verne	27 July 2011
HMP Kirkham	3 September 2011
HMP Preston	3 September 2011
HMP Elmley	17 November 2011
HMP Swaleside	17 November 2011
HMP Stanford Hill	17 November 2011
HMP Wayland	11 November 2011
HMP Liverpool	29 November 2011
HMP Altcourse	29 November 2011
HMP Gloucester	1 December 2011
HMP Leyhill	2 December 2011
HMP Eastwood Park	2 December 2011
HMP Hull	16 December 2011
Nick Herbert	
HMP Hull	29 September 2010
HMP Lewes	24 June 2011
Lord McNally	
HMP Highdown	3 June 2011
HMP Holloway	21 July 2011
HMP Norwich	26 July 2011
HMP Swaleside	31 August 2011

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what receptions and events have been hosted by his Department since May 2010, including those sponsored by a third party. [84177]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Department does not keep a central record of all the events and receptions that are hosted by Ministers and officials. This includes those events that are hosted by third parties on behalf of the Department and all events to support public consultations. To collate this information would incur disproportionate costs.

The Department has previously released information about ministerial hospitality, which included events and receptions, for the period covering May 2010 to June 2011. I would direct the hon. Member to 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 458-59W:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110623/text/110623w0003.htm

Legal Opinion: Consumers

Sir Alan Meale: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government have assessed the potential effect of new forms of regulation of legal services on consumer protection. [86832]

Mr Blunt: The licensing regime for alternative business structures (ABS) contained in the Legal Services Act 2007 became operational on 6 October 2011. The Act sets out numerous regulatory safeguards and consumer protections, including requiring all potential licensing authorities to demonstrate to the oversight regulator, the Legal Services Board, that they have robust procedures in place to regulate and monitor the bodies that they will license. Before a body is licensed, it has to meet the criteria set out in the rules and regulations of licensing authorities. In addition, every person working in an ABS firm must comply with licensing rules and licensing authorities may take disciplinary action for con-compliance.

All consumer complaints about legal services arising from a traditional law firm or an ABS will be handled by the Legal Ombudsman in the first instance. An impact assessment was prepared specifically for the commencement of ABS. The Legal Services Board will monitor the impact, which is expected to realise over the next three to five years, and conduct a post-implementation review.

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners were detained in prison *(a)* on remand and *(b)* having been found guilty in England and Wales on 1 January of each year between 1997 and 2011. [87336]

Mr Blunt: Data are held centrally on the prison population on the last day of each month, so figures are not available for 1 January each year. Additionally, annual trends are typically compared using the 30 June figures for each year. The following table shows the number of foreign national prisoners by custody type as at 30 June of each year from 1997 to 2011. These figures are published annually in the Offender Management Statistics bulletin.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Foreign national prisoners, remand and sentenced population, England and Wales

30 June each year	Untried	Convicted unsentenced	Immediate custodial sentence
1997	738	168	3,250
1998	814	271	3,546
1999	760	272	3,864
2000	880	259	3,919
2001	905	389	4,576
2002	966	457	5,607
2003	1,150	532	6,281
2004	1,284	575	6,256
2005	1,496	775	6,509
2006	1,532	862	7,284
2007	1,747	718	7,488

Foreign national prisoners, remand and sentenced population, England and Wales

30 June each year	Untried	Convicted unsentenced	Immediate custodial sentence
2008	1,654	754	7,682
2009	1,711	674	7,502
2010	1,739	760	7,706
2011	1,757	605	7,516

Prisons: Security

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contingency arrangements his Department has put in place to minimise the risk of disturbances in the secure estate during the Christmas and new year period. [87332]

Mr Blunt: During the week beginning 5 December 2011 governing governors of public prisons and directors of private prisons were requested to ensure that local contingency plans were reviewed ahead of major public holidays and that any significant changes be incorporated in those plans. These include the mobilisation of resources in response to incidents at other establishments. National command arrangements are in place to deal with any significant incidents over this period.

Public Protection Arrangements

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) for what serious further offences offenders subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements have been charged in each of the last five years; and what proportion of such charges resulted in *(a)* an out-of-court disposal, *(b)* a conviction in court, *(c)* an acquittal in court, *(d)* a custodial sentence and *(e)* a non-custodial sentence; [86310]

(2) what offences were committed by persons subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements in the last year for which figures are available; and in what proportion of cases the offender *(a)* was returned to custody and *(b)* remained in the community; [86319]

(3) how many offenders subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements have subsequently reoffended and been given an out-of-court disposal for such offences in each of the last five years. [86320]

Mr Blunt: Table 8 of the Ministry of Justice Statistics bulletin "Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements Annual Report 2010-11", which was published on 27 October 2011, provides information about offenders who were charged with a serious further offence while under probation supervision and while subject to the multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA). MAPPA were established under section 325 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. This information includes those managed at Level 1 (ordinary agency management), and at Levels 2 and 3 (active multi-agency management). "Serious further offence" means murder or any of the offences specified in Schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (except wounding with intent). The available information is shown as follows.

Offenders subject to MAPPA who were charged with a serious further offence

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
2005-06	—	50	12	—
2006-07	—	69	13	—
2007-08	—	72	7	—
2008-09[1]	—	40	8	—
2009-10	162	31	3	196
2010-11	108	23	3	134

[1] On 1 December 2008, Probation Circular 22/2008 introduced changes in the process for notification and the subsequent review of serious further offences. As a result, the figures for 2008-09 include cases before and after the changes and therefore are not directly comparable with the previous and subsequent year.

Information is not centrally available about *(a)* the number of offences, other than serious further offences, committed by offenders subject to MAPPA; *(b)* the particular offences (within the list of serious further offences as a whole) with which offenders were charged; or *(c)* the proportion of charges for these or other offences resulting in the different outcomes specified by my hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel). The information could be obtained only by a manual search of the records held by all the local probation trusts and police forces of all the offenders made subject to MAPPA in the last five years. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Remand in Custody

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children he expects there to be in custody between 2011-12 and 2013-14. [86662]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice produces annual projections of the prison population in England and Wales, most recently in October 2011. These project the prison population under three different scenarios based on the impact of three different sentencing trends on custodial convictions (higher, medium and lower).

The following table shows average monthly projected juvenile prison population for the financial years 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Average projections juvenile prison population (financial year figures)

	Sentencing scenarios		
	Medium	Lower	Higher
2011-12	1,700	1,700	1,800
2012-13	1,700	1,600	1,700
2013-14	1,600	1,500	1,700

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. This population only includes those aged 15-17 in young offending institutions. Young people detained in secure children's homes or secure training centres are not included.

More details on the projections may be found in the latest published bulletin "Prison Population Projections 2011-2017" Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin, 27 October 2011. This is available at the following webpage:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/mojstats/prison-pop-projections-2011-17.pdf

These projections take no account of any impacts which might result from the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill which is currently passing through Parliament:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/bills-and-acts/bills/legal-aid-and-sentencing-bill.htm

As such these projections provide a set of "baseline" scenarios against which the impacts of future changes can be assessed. Other impacts included in the projections,

such as those of the August 2011 public disorder events, changing legislation, changing procedures and new sentencing guidelines are applied equally to all three scenarios.

Reoffenders: Alternatives to Prosecution

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders subject to out-of-court disposals reoffended within *(a)* one month, *(b)* two months, *(c)* three months, *(d)* six months, *(e)* nine months and *(f)* one year or more of receiving that out-of-court disposal. [84414]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 shows the proven reoffending rates for adults and juveniles who reoffended within one year of receiving an out-of-court disposal, (caution for adults and reprimand or final warning for juveniles) between January and December 2009.

Table 1: Adult and Juvenile proven re-offending rates for offenders who received an out-of-court disposal in 2009

	Number of offenders	*Reoffending rate (percentage)*
Adult	211,892	17.6
Juveniles	78,132	23.3

Proven reoffending is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period and receiving a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow-up. Following this one year period, a further six months is allowed for cases to progress through the courts.

Reoffending rates for this group of offenders are not available for follow-up periods of less than one year. However the MOJ publishes the number of proven reoffences by month of offence which can be broken down by disposal. Table 2 shows the numbers of reoffences committed within one month, two months, three months, six months, nine months and one year for adults and juveniles who were subject to an out-of-court disposal between January and December 2009.

Table 2: Total number of reoffences within each number of months

Months to reoffence	*Adults*	*Juveniles*
1	14,994	6,007
2	23,403	9,572
3	31,356	13,085
6	52,442	22,648
9	71,120	32,112
12	85,750	39,697

Note:
An offender can commit more than one reoffence so can therefore be counted more than once in the above breakdown. Adult offenders who received an out-of-court disposal in 2009 and reoffended, committed on average 2.3 reoffences each over 12 months.

Reoffenders: Crimes of Violence

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the highest number of previous convictions for assault was for an individual convicted of an offence of assault without being sent to prison in each of the last three years; and how many offences that individual had committed in total at the point of sentence for that offence. [85474]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the highest number of previous convictions for common assault, for individuals convicted of this offence in the year 2008-10 who received a sentence other than immediate custody. It also shows their total number of previous cautions and convictions. Although these individuals did not go to prison for their index offence, two had previously been to prison for the same offence. The figure for 2008 is for a female whose first caution or conviction was in 2004 and who have never been sentenced to immediate custody. The figure for 2009 is for a male whose first caution or conviction was in 1997. The figure for 2010 is for a male whose first caution or conviction was in 1971. The sentencing guidelines for common assault provide for starting points of non-custodial sentences for all categories of case.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large-scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Highest number of previous convictions for common assault, when convicted of this offence in England and Wales in the year 2008-10, and not going to prison

	Number of previous offences		
	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Previous conviction for common assault	33	37	32
Previous cautions and convictions at time of conviction	68	122	315
Previous immediate custodial sentences at time of conviction	0	25	133

Theft: Retail Trade

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on sentencing for shop theft; and if he will make a statement. [87234]

Mr Blunt: We have received no representations on sentencing for shop theft.

Young Offender Institutions: Injuries

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people the Youth Justice Board recorded as injured in each young offenders institute in each of the last eight years; how many injuries were recorded in total; how many were recorded as serious injuries; and if he will make a statement. [86929]

Mr Blunt: The tables show the number of injuries recorded following incidents of restrictive physical interventions (RPIs), self-harm or assaults in under-18 young offender institutions (YOIs). Data are not collected centrally on accidental injuries. This information has been provided by the Youth Justice Board (YJB).

Although the YJB is only responsible for placing 10 to 17-year-olds, to avoid disrupting their regimes, some 18-year-olds remain in under-18 YOIs if they only have a short period of their sentence left to serve.

These data come from monthly returns from secure establishments to the YJB. Due to the way these data are collected it is not possible to tell if the same young people are involved in multiple incidents throughout the year. The YJB only began collecting the data centrally in 2007-08. Data for 2010-11 will be published in January 2012 with the release of the YJB Annual Statistics.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

2007-08

Under 18 Young Offenders Institutions (YOIs)	*RPI injuries*	*RPI injuries recorded as serious injuries*	*Self-harm injuries*	*Self-harm injuries recorded as serious injuries*	*Assault injuries*	*Assault injuries recorded as serious injuries*
Ashfield	21	0	55	4	69	8
Brinsford	41	0	62	1	5	1
Castington	37	0	25	0	29	6
Cookham Wood	0	0	2	0	1	1
Downview	11	0	0	0	0	0
Eastwood Park	0	0	116	0	2	0
Feltham	18	0	113	2	53	5
Feltham (Heron Unit)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foston Hall	13	0	52	2	1	1
Hindley	122	0	49	0	427	3
Huntercombe	12	0	58	0	60	9
Lancaster Farms	27	1	85	1	43	5
New Hall	1	0	56	1	5	0
Parc	29	0	25	2	20	1
Stoke Heath	45	0	96	3	65	1
Thorn Cross	0	0	4	0	7	0
Warren Hill	23	0	14	1	55	5
Warren Hill (Carlford Unit)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Werrington	19	0	33	0	63	4
Wetherby—Keppel Unit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wetherby	44	0	29	0	43	1
Total	463	1	874	17	948	51

2008-09

Under 18 Young Offenders Institutions (YOIs)	*RPI injuries*	*RPI injuries recorded as serious injuries*	*Self-harm injuries*	*Self-harm injuries recorded as serious injuries*	*Assault injuries*	*Assault injuries recorded as serious injuries*
Ashfield	7	0	22	0	49	5
Brinsford	22	0	42	0	1	0
Castington	17	2	23	0	19	1
Cookham Wood	32	1	106	4	67	5
Downview	0	0	33	0	2	1
Eastwood Park	0	0	304	0	3	0
Feltham	7	0	133	0	51	4
Feltham (Heron Unit)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foston Hall	2	0	29	0	0	0
Hindley	114	1	102	0	68	1
Huntercombe	184	0	92	1	193	0
Lancaster Farms	24	0	24	0	31	1
New Hall	2	0	89	6	1	1
Parc	75	0	19	0	25	1
Stoke Heath	43	0	173	3	24	0
Thorn Cross	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren Hill	79	1	96	5	70	2
Warren Hill (Carlford Unit)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Werrington	55	0	100	0	98	0
Wetherby—Keppel Unit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wetherby	41	0	82	2	57	3
Total	704	5	1,469	21	759	25

2009-10

Under 18 Young Offenders Institutions (YOIs)	*RPI injuries*	*RPI injuries recorded as serious injuries*	*Self-harm injuries*	*Self-harm injuries recorded as serious injuries*	*Assault injuries*	*Assault injuries recorded as serious injuries*
Ashfield	12	0	52	1	55	2
Brinsford	5	0	37	0	0	0

	2009-10					
Under 18 Young Offenders Institutions (YOIs)	*RPI injuries*	*RPI injuries recorded as serious injuries*	*Self-harm injuries*	*Self-harm injuries recorded as serious injuries*	*Assault injuries*	*Assault injuries recorded as serious injuries*
Castington	16	1	15	2	39	4
Cookham Wood	42	3	77	2	42	1
Downview	3	0	36	0	4	0
Eastwood Park	4	0	32	0	2	0
Feltham	58	1	129	0	69	0
Feltham (Heron Unit)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foston Hall	0	0	20	0	0	0
Hindley	148	0	110	0	171	2
Huntercombe	26	0	120	1	113	2
Lancaster Farms	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Hall	0	0	38	0	0	0
Parc	77	0	20	1	38	0
Stoke Heath	10	0	103	2	22	0
Thorn Cross	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warren Hill	45	0	72	0	77	6
Warren Hill (Carlford Unit)	0	0	0	0	1	0
Werrington	56	1	72	0	65	1
Wetherby—Keppel Unit	20	1	85	0	8	1
Wetherby	70	0	116	3	54	2
Total	592	7	1,134	12	760	21

Notes:
1. Cookham Wood YOI closed as a female YOI in March 2008 and opened as a male YOI in May 2008.
2. Warren Hill (Carlford Unit) opened in November 2009.
3. Wetherby (Keppel Unit) opened in October 2009.
4. Lancaster Farms YOI closed in February 2009.
5. Thorn Cross YOI closed in March 2008.
6. Feltham (Heron Unit) opened in September 2009.

Young Offenders

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much each local authority in the north-east has contributed to the costs of its youth offending services from its Revenue Support Grant in each year since 2000-01. [86658]

Mr Blunt: The following table presents the amount of funding that each youth offending team (YOT) in the north-east reported having received from their local authority in total, whether from the Revenue Support Grant or other funding, including staffing costs, payments in kind and other delegated funds, from 2002-03 to 2009-10. No figures were recorded before 2002-03. Figures for 2010-11 are not yet available and are scheduled for publication in January 2012 as part of the Youth Justice statistics.

YOT	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Darlington	260,564	268,380	403,382	352,054	463,429	486,055	511,646	537,355
Durham	1,772,000	2,005,830	1,987,300	2,053,304	2,068,392	2,158,379	2,229,924	2,270,655
Gateshead	378,000	472,000	522,300	531,000	499,000	499,000	1,253,706	1,302,669
Hartlepool	555,586	540,344	557,753	571,953	666,807	724,614	746,558	643,709
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	749,257	782,540	794,090	603,460	823,170	1,026,270	1,274,120	1,360,520
North Tyneside	421,977	467,689	479,330	535,620	581,932	615,265	526,599	558,468
Northumberland	773,660	844,644	975,115	1,170,680	1,039,649	1,130,200	1,149,610	—
South Tees	642,712	742,035	591,691	898,230	1,193,975	919,335	628,319	640,574
South Tyneside	670,670	701,317	676,385	960,556	979,105	910,331	885,727	685,727
Stockton-on-Tees	401,367	387,955	457,700	476,726	481,286	521,051	530,447	583,880
Sunderland	1,781,000	1,910,200	2,002,000	1,521,429	1,602,061	1,986,739	2,071,974	2,193,433
Total	8,406,793	9,122,934	9,447,246	9,675,014	10,398,806	10,977,439	11,808,630	10,976,990

Notes:
1. No figure is available for Northumberland for 2009-10.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.
3. These figures were not collected prior to 2002-03.

Youth Custody

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children aged under 18 years in each age group were held in the secure estate on 30 November *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [87439]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of children aged under 18 years by each age held in the secure estate for children and young people at the end of October for *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011.

As the prison population fluctuates from month to month it is appropriate to compare the same months in

year-on-year comparisons. As data for November 2011 are not yet available, October data for each year of interest are presented.

These data are from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and refer to secure training centres (STCs), secure children's homes (SCHs), and under 18 young offender institutions (YOIs).

Please note that data for October 2010 and October 2011 are provisional. The final October 2010 figures will be presented in the 2010-11 Youth Justice Statistics publication on 26 January 2012. The final October 2011 figures will be presented in the 2011-12 Youth Justice Statistics publication.

The number of children aged under 18 years by each age held in the secure estate for children and young people at the end of October for (a) 2009, (b) 2010 and (c) 2011

Age	*October 2009*	*October 2010*[1]	*October 2011*[1]
11	0	1	0
12	8	2	2
13	24	19	15
14	96	67	69
15	319	249	260
16	702	574	570
17	1,379	1,083	1,105
Total	2,528	1,995	2,021

[1] These figures are provisional. The final October 2010 figures will be presented in the 2010-11 Youth Justice Statistics publication on 26 January 2012. The final October 2011 figures will be presented in the 2011-12 Youth Justice statistics publication

Notes:

1. YJB data referring to secure training centres (STCs), secure children's homes (SCHs), and under 18 young offender institutions (YOIs).
2. As the prison population fluctuates from month to month it is appropriate to compare the same months in year-on-year comparisons. As data for November 2011 are not yet available, October data for each year of interest are presented.
3. Youth custodial data are published on a monthly basis; they are a monthly snapshot of the custodial population (taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month depending on which is nearer to the actual month end). For October 2010, the total custody figure was taken from daily data supplied by establishments, with breakdowns scaled to the total. This is a standard calculation performed when there is a large discrepancy between the daily data supplied by the establishments and the central database (indicating that the central database has not yet been fully updated) in order to meet commitments to publish the data on a monthly basis. When data are finalised all figures are taken from the central database.
4. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

Youth Justice Reinvestment Pathfinder Initiative

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many expressions of interest he has received from local authorities for involvement in the Youth Justice Reinvestment Pathfinder initiative; [86659]

(2) for what reasons the Youth Justice Board chose to use the number of custody bed nights rather than custodial sentencing rates as the outcome measure for the Youth Justice Reinvestment Pathfinder initiative; [86660]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the record of bed nights used in custody by *(a)* legal basis for detention and *(b)* establishment for each local authority area in England and Wales between 2005-06 and 2009-10. [86661]

Mr Blunt: The Youth Justice Board's (YJB) Youth Reinvestment Pathfinder initiative aims to reduce levels of youth custody in England and Wales. The two-year project, which started in October 2011, gives authorities the freedom and flexibility to use the funding to commission and deliver their own responses to reduce levels of youth custody and youth reoffending in their area.

The YJB received 13 formal expressions of interest for involvement in the initiative. These expressions of interest came from a mixture of individual local authorities and consortia of local authorities.

The YJB counts the number of custody bed nights used by a young person for the initiative. The number of custody bed nights was chosen for the pilot as it was felt that it has a stronger relationship with the costs of custody than looking at the custodial sentencing rates. There are two reasons for this:

The custodial sentencing rate does not take into account actual time spent in custody because of variation in sentence length. The bed night indicator (i.e. the number of nights in custody either remand or sentenced that a young person uses during a period) is a more accurate reflection of the number of people in custody over the period of interest and therefore the cost of custody.

It incorporates both the remand population and custodial sentences. Looking at the number of sentences does not reflect the true costs of custody, as a proportion of the secure estate population are held on remand.

A copy of the record of bed nights used in custody by *(a)* legal basis for detention and *(b)* sector for each local authority area in England and Wales between 2005-06 and 2009-10 will be deposited in the Library in due course. This will provide sector level rather than establishment information in order to avoid the risk of a young person being identified.

Youth Justice: North-east England

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much Youth Justice Board grant funding has been made available for youth offending *(a)* teams and *(b)* services in each local authority area in the north-east in each year since 2000-01, by project. [85489]

Mr Blunt: This information is contained in two tables which have been deposited in the Library. The majority of Youth Justice Board funding in the north-east goes directly to youth offending teams. We have also included Youth Justice Board funding to secure children's homes in the region.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 20 December 2011

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much the House spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [87006]

John Thurso: The House purchased food to the value of £2.39 million during the financial year 2010-11.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Pensions

John Hemming: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what the level of the Church of England's pension scheme deficit is; and what the capacity of the Church of England is to pay that deficit. [87676]

Tony Baldry: The Church of England Pensions Board administers three pension schemes on behalf of the Church of England.

The Church of England Funded Pensions Scheme (the scheme for clergy of the Church of England) had a deficit of £262 million at the last valuation, as at 31 December 2009. That deficit is being recovered over a 12-year period ending 31 December 2022.

Smaller deficits exist on the other schemes, which are being recovered over shorter periods.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Victims' Commissioner

Owen Smith: To ask the Attorney-General what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues and the Director of Public Prosecutions on the timetable for appointing a Victims' Commissioner. [87244]

The Attorney-General: I have not had any discussions on this issue with the Director of Public Prosecutions or ministerial colleagues. Such an appointment would be a matter for the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke).

Crown Prosecution Service

Mr Buckland: To ask the Attorney-General what assessment he has made of the potential effect on fairness of proceedings of the proposal by the London Area Crown Prosecution Service for prosecutors to make oral rather than written applications for the admission of hearsay and bad character evidence in proceedings in magistrates courts. [86972]

The Attorney-General: The principles which govern how hearsay and bad character applications are considered by the courts are prescribed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the common law, and cannot be changed by any policy of the Crown Prosecution Service. The Criminal Procedure Rules 2011 allow notices and applications to adduce hearsay and bad character to be in writing, but also provide the courts with discretion to permit notices to be given or applications to be made orally and even to dispense with requirements for notice altogether. There is nothing inherently unfair in notices and applications being given or made orally. The rules apply across England and Wales.

It is envisaged that prosecutors will ask for permission to make notices/applications orally where they consider it appropriate in the circumstances of the case. Where the defence oppose this approach they are entitled to make representations on the issue. As part of its duty to actively manage cases, the court will then consider whether to allow notice to be given in the form proposed. The court will determine the issue in a way that best furthers the overriding objective of the Criminal Procedure Rules 2011—that criminal cases be dealt with justly.

SCOTLAND

European Council

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the effect on Scotland's interests in the EU following the Prime Minister's use of a veto at the recent European Council. [86982]

Michael Moore: At a time of economic hardship, both coalition parties supported a UK negotiating position that would have provided stability and reassurance to our financial sector while maintaining the integrity of the EU single market and allowing eurozone members to achieve greater fiscal union.

The UK financial sector provides direct employment for more than 90,000 people in Scotland, and indirect employment for many tens of thousands more, representing up to one in 10 Scottish jobs, and the negotiating position was the right one for our country.

PRIME MINISTER

Civil Servants

Mr Gray: To ask the Prime Minister if serving civil servants are obliged to register at the time any approach received to leave the civil service to take up paid work in the private sector; and if so, since when they have been so obliged. [87403]

The Prime Minister: Arrangements are set out in the Business Appointment Rules for civil servants which are contained in Section 4.3 Annex A of the Civil Service Management Code

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/civil-service-management-code

EU Action

Angus Robertson: To ask the Prime Minister from which Departments Ministers and officials who accompanied him to the recent European Council were drawn. [87009]

The Prime Minister: Details of ministerial overseas travel are published quarterly.

Japan Tobacco International

Mr Hain: To ask the Prime Minister whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his special advisers have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87618]

The Prime Minister: Hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers is published on a quarterly basis.

Details can be found on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations-april-june

and

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-advisers-gifts-and-hospitality-april-june-2011

Joint Ministerial Committee

Angus Robertson: To ask the Prime Minister when he next expects the Joint Ministerial Committee to meet. [87010]

The Prime Minister: I and ministerial colleagues are in regular contact with devolved Governments, including through the forthcoming Domestic and European sub-committee meetings.

Members: Surveillance

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has reviewed the Wilson doctrine; and if he will make a statement. [87768]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Lincoln (Karl McCartney) on 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 501W.

DEFENCE

Adam Werritty

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the pre-posting briefing meeting held in the Ministry of Defence in September 2010 for Mr Matthew Gould as HM Ambassador Designate to Israel with his predecessor and Mr Adam Werritty, referred to at paragraph 6, page 2 of the report by the Cabinet Secretary on allegations against right hon. Dr Liam Fox MP was held in a private official room; which departmental officials were present at that meeting; whether official notes of the meeting were taken; and if he will make a statement. [86058]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* As the Cabinet Secretary's report states

"I understand that this was a general discussion on international defence and security matters to enable Mr Gould better to understand MOD's perspective of the security situation in the Middle East."

The meeting was held in the Defence Secretary's office. Mr Gould was present as Her Majesty's Ambassador Designate. It was a general discussion; no officials from the Ministry of Defence were present, therefore no official record or notes were taken.

Air Force: Military Bases

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence his Department has received from the Scottish Government on their RAF basing review. [75188]

Nick Harvey: We do not normally publish private correspondence between the Department and the devolved Administrations.

Armed Forces: Pay

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to protect and improve the overall financial package for armed forces personnel. [86914]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* To protect and improve the overall financial package for armed forces personnel, we have ensured that all those eligible for incremental pay continue to receive this, even in times of a pay freeze. This ensures around 70% of service personnel receive a pay rise every year. We have further ensured that all those earning under £21,000 per annum have received a £250 consolidated pay rise, while the pay freeze is in place. Once the pay freeze is lifted, we will enable an uplift of 1% in the armed forces' pay bill in addition to all those eligible continuing to receive their incremental pay. We have doubled the operational allowance to over £5,000 for a tour of six months and increased council tax rebate to 50% for those on operations and, following necessary reductions to allowances announced in Strategic Defence and Security Review, we have ensured that we retain an appropriate and proportionate allowance package.

In addition, our work on the new employment model programme aims to strike a better balance between service and the demands placed on service personnel and their families, adjusting the elements that make up the offer to better reflect how people actually live, to ensure that a career in the armed forces remains attractive and competitive.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason he has not adopted the recommendations of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body. [87469]

Mr Robathan: Successive Governments have accepted in full, without staging, all Armed Forces Pay Review Body recommendations since 1999. In 1998 a recommendation for one group of medical personnel was abated by 0.5%. The Pay Review Body's next report is expected in early 2012.

Procurement

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 428-9W, on departmental procurement, on what basis the sample of 42 projects out of a total of 2,580 was selected; what those 42

projects were; and whether it is the standard practice of his Department to conduct an audit of projects on the basis of a sample size of 1.5 per cent. [86971]

Nick Harvey: To identify whether the controls were operating effectively, the selection was based partly on a random sample and partly on the basis of suspected non-compliance. The 42 tasks were as follows:

Riskhive training courses
Ballast water report and develop operating procedures
Centralised data warehouse
Safety management system
Project safety and airworthiness tasks
Upgrade airworthiness and safety data repository
Medical consumables schedule
Technical support to the attrition requirement
Review of cost estimates
Threat hazard assessment and ship explosive safety case reports
Signal smoke parachutist assessment
Review and update of safety and environmental report
Invitation to tender bid evaluation report
Business agreement negotiations and business case development
Legacy finance tasks
Requirements manager
Security assurance co-ordinator
Transport of vehicles
Requirements analysis and solution exploration
Defence information infrastructure input to the Joint Project Co-ordination Office
Human resource transition strategy
Revision to 'Green Book'—(An intro to environmental management in the MoD acquisition process)
Provision of technical support x 7
Bowman management information systems subject matter expert
Requirements capture and control
Installations and systems safety
Future installations support
Independent safety advice
Specialist technical support—business solutions requirements manager
Initial programme design
Specialist technical support—Crypto x 2
Development of user training materials
Development of training requirements specialist technical advice
Security specialist technical support.

The sample size varies depending on the audit, timescales, resources etc. In this case it was originally intended to review a sample of 25 to identify whether controls were effective, but this was later extended.

Depleted Uranium

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has implemented his plans to phase out depleted uranium ammunition for the Phalanx Close-In Weapon System in favour of tungsten. [87733]

Nick Harvey: Yes. All Phalanx Close-in Weapon System ammunition containing depleted uranium was made available for disposal in May 2010.

Navy

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions Royal Navy submarines have docked at *(a)* Southampton and *(b)* Plymouth in each of the last five years. [86822]

Nick Harvey: Three Royal Navy submarines have docked at Southampton in the last five years. The specific information of individual dockings in Plymouth is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. There are, however, around 180 individual submarine movements per year in the dockyard port of Plymouth.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of Royal Navy personnel was at sea on average in the latest period for which figures are available. [86823]

Nick Harvey: As of 15 December 2011, there were approximately 12% of the total naval service, including Royal Fleet Auxiliary, personnel deployed at sea.

Public Private Partnerships: Private Finance Initiative

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on *(a)* public private partnerships and *(b)* private finance initiative provision; and if he will make a statement. [86828]

Mr Philip Hammond: Public private partnerships (PPP) cover all types of collaboration across the private-public sector interface involving collaborative working and risk sharing to deliver policies, services, and infrastructure. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) follows HM Treasury policy in this area and adopts these arrangements where they offer best value for money.

Similarly, the policy for private finance initiatives (PFI) is set by HM Treasury and implemented by the MOD Private Finance Unit. The MOD has no preference for PFI over any other form of procurement and continues to consider the use of private finance alongside all other appropriate acquisition options at the outset of all procurements. No MOD projects are currently pursuing a PFI procurement strategy.

The MOD intends to play an active part in contributing to the reform agenda for PFI announced to the House on 15 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 34-35WS, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne).

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12 to date; and if he will make a statement; [86879]

(2) what funding his Department allocated to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [86880]

Mr Robathan: As at 31 March 2011, there were 929.3 full-time equivalent staff employed by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA), and 827.2 as at 30 November 2011.

£110.976 million was allocated to the SPVA for financial year (FY) 2010-11, and £111.035 million for FY 2011-12. The increase for financial year 2011-12 relates to operating costs associated with the Armed Forced Redundancy Scheme and the issue of the Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Waste Disposal

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many times the Royal Navy has witnessed foreign naval vessels dumping waste into the UK exclusive economic zone waters in each of the last five years; and what the location was in each such case; [87591]

(2) whether he has received reports that waste has been disposed into the sea off the Scottish coast from the Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov; [87580]

(3) whether the Royal Navy has contacted the National Maritime Intelligence Centre concerning reports of waste being disposed into the sea off the Scottish coast by the Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov. [87581]

Mr Robathan: In accordance with international agreed pollution reporting, HMS York reported she observed items in the sea off the coast of Scotland. The Royal Navy passed this information to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, who are responsible for enforcement of maritime pollution regulations via the National Maritime Information Centre. Various internal Ministry of Defence departments were also notified. Due to the weather conditions and time of day it was not possible to positively identify the items or pick them up for analysis.

The Royal Navy does not hold, and is not required to hold, records of incidents involving foreign naval vessels dumping waste into the UK exclusive economic zone waters.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos Healthcare

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Mental Function Champions are employed by Atos Healthcare for the purposes of the work capability assessment *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region. [87302]

Chris Grayling: There are 60 Mental Function Champions employed by Atos Healthcare nationally for the purpose of work capability assessment. They are spread to cover all work capability assessments as necessary and based in the following regions:

	Number
Midlands and London areas	15
Northern England	21
Scotland	8
Southern England and Wales	16

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Atos Customer Charter will next be reviewed. [87304]

Chris Grayling: The Atos Healthcare Customer Charter will be reviewed in 2012.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish the outcome of the trial of the deployment of Atos-approved health care professionals in benefit centres. [87307]

Chris Grayling: There are no plans to publish the outcome as the evaluation was aimed at advising the internal DWP decision-making process to determine next steps for health care professional deployment in benefit centres for ESA and IB reassessment cases. Results of the trial were positive with both DWP decision makers and Atos Healthcare professionals benefiting from the arrangement. However, at the end of the trial, Atos Healthcare professional capacity pressures meant that the initiative could not be continued. From the start of December, DWP and Atos have agreed the implementation of a telephone helpline so that decision makers can speak directly to health care professionals to obtain medical advice in specific cases. This is an interim arrangement until Atos are in a position to reintroduce the deployment of health care professionals in benefit centres.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Atos-approved health care professionals are deployed in benefit centres *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region. [87308]

Chris Grayling: There are currently no Atos Healthcare professionals deployed in benefit centres for ESA and IB re-assessment cases as Atos Healthcare professional capacity pressures meant that the initiative could not progress beyond the trial. From the start of December, DWP and Atos have agreed the implementation of a telephone help line so that decision makers can speak directly to health care professionals to obtain medical advice in specific cases. This is an interim arrangement until Atos are in a position to re-introduce the deployment of health care professionals in benefit centres.

Atos Healthcare: Training

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many days of training are provided to approved healthcare professionals working for Atos Healthcare to undertake the work capability assessment in dealing with mental health conditions that are not within their clinical specialism. [87533]

Chris Grayling: Atos Healthcare only train health care professionals approved by my Department.

These professionals receive, as a minimum, to undertake the work capability assessment:

11 days for doctors of which five days are for mental health training

23 days for nurses of which nine days are for mental health training

26 days for physiotherapists of which 14 days are for mental health training

There is continual professional development offered to support carrying out work capability assessments, including the assessment of mental health conditions.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 Session to date. [85928]

Chris Grayling: In the 2010-12 Session to the end of November 2011, 4,250 questions for ordinary written answer had received a substantive response, of which:

(a) 3,491 (82%) were answered within 10 sitting days;

(b) 547 (13%) were answered between 11 and 20 sitting days;

(c) 118 (3%) were answered between 21 and 30 sitting days; and

(d) 95 (2%) were answered in more than 30 sitting days.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide this information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Employment and Support Allowance

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in the work-related activity group of contributory employment and support allowance with *(a)* multiple sclerosis and *(b)* other long-term degenerative conditions. [86973]

Chris Grayling: The information requested relating to people with multiple sclerosis is given as follows.

The term degenerative disease/condition is a general one; it may apply to any condition that leads to gradual deterioration, therefore this can encompass a wide variety of conditions. This may include conditions as diverse as neurological, cardiovascular, musculoskeletal conditions and even cancer. It is therefore difficult to quantify the conditions to which the question refers.

Employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants in the work-related activity group, with a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis in Great Britain, May 2011

	All	*Claimants with a contributory element*
Claimants in the work-related activity group	209,140	102,010
Multiple sclerosis	1,640	1,250

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Benefit type: The type of ESA is defined as pay status at the caseload date—this may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim.
3. Phase/stage of ESA claim is derived from payment details held on the source system.
Where the claimant is not in receipt of any benefit payment then the stage of benefit is shown as unknown.
4. There are a number of claimants entitled to both the contributory and income-based elements of ESA.

Source:
DWP, Information, Governance and Security Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions an individual who claimed employment and support allowance on or after 31 October 2011 did not receive a telephone call from the Jobcentre Plus decision maker advising what would happen following the outcome of the work capability assessment. [87294]

Chris Grayling: The telephone call by the decision maker to explain the outcome of the work capability assessment (WCA) was introduced as part of the Harrington review changes to better support customers making a claim for employment and support allowance (ESA) on or after 31 October 2011. Due to the length of time it takes to complete the WCA process, telephone calls have not yet commenced for the majority of claimants. Telephone calls have been completed for some straightforward cases, where the claimant has been found to have limited capability for work and no face-to-face assessment was required. For claimants who have attended a face-to-face assessment and been found to have no limited capability for work calls are expected to commence in the new year.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he last reviewed the ESA50 questionnaire; if he will publish the outcome of his most recent review of the ESA50 questionnaire; and when he next plans to review the ESA50 questionnaire. [87296]

Chris Grayling: The ESA50 questionnaire was reviewed during late 2010 and early 2011. This resulted in a new version of the ESA50 questionnaire being launched on 14 March 2011. This version incorporated many of the recommendations made by Professor Harrington and a number of disability groups consulted as part of the review.

As the Government set out in their response to Professor Harrington's second independent review, we are now working with Mind, Mencap and the National Autistic Society to review the ESA50 questionnaire in light of the recommendations they made to Professor Harrington to improve the WCA.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many formal complaints he has received in relation to the ESA50 questionnaire since May 2010. [87297]

Chris Grayling: There is no central record of formal complaints received in relation to form ESA50, the work capability assessment questionnaire. The ESA50 questionnaire is kept under review taking account of individual complaints received.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he last reviewed the main employment and support allowance letters; if he will publish the outcome of his most recent review of the main employment and support allowance letters; and when he next plans to review the main employment and support allowance letters. [87299]

Chris Grayling: Minor changes were made to the main employment and support allowance letters in May 2011 to improve the clarity in distinction between contributory and income-related ESA. Further small improvements may be made in the future if there is the capacity for changes to computer systems and funding permits. Letters are currently being reviewed as part of the proposals to time-limit ESA from 2012. There are no plans to publish a review of ESA letters.

Employment and Support Allowance: Drugs

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the classification by Atos of employment and support allowance recipients who are receiving residential treatment for drug or alcohol misuse as having limited capability for work without requiring them to attend a face-to-face assessment. [86841]

Chris Grayling: In March 2011, we revised employment and support allowance legislation to ensure that it met the policy intent to treat claimants as having limited capability for work on any day they attend residential rehabilitation for the treatment of drug or alcohol addiction. This widened the original provision to cover individuals receiving such treatment as part of a residential programme where no medical staff are present.

We have not provided Atos Healthcare with specific guidance on the classification of residential treatment; as we believe it has a commonly understood meaning. The policy intent is to ensure that we consider a wider scope of programmes that could satisfy this provision. It is for Atos Healthcare practitioners to gather and review the evidence on this issue and then provide advice on whether they consider the provision to be satisfied. It is then for departmental decision makers to consider all the available evidence and make a decision on entitlement.

During summer 2011, DWP officials engaged with the National Treatment Agency to better communicate the intent of this provision. We have received no other representation.

Employment Schemes

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* the Work Choice programme and *(b)* the Government's policies on job retention for those with neurological conditions. [85985]

Maria Miller: Qualitative research on the effectiveness of the Work Choice programme is being undertaken in a phased approach. The first stage of this was published on 24 November 2011. This document/publication is available on our website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/ihs-index.asp

The Department has a programme of activity to help working-age people with a health condition remain in or return to work, by working with other Government Departments, devolved Governments and three key stakeholder groups: employers (specifically focusing on providing SME businesses with a greater capacity to deal effectively with health issues and sickness absence), health care professionals (to engender cultural change within the health care professions to ensure that good quality back-to-work advice is embedded in good clinical practice in primary and secondary care) and the participants themselves (focusing on supporting them to retain work when health issues arise). This support is not condition specific and so not specifically targeted at those with neurological conditions.

The Department continues to carry out research with GPs to evaluate the statement of fitness for work, or fit note. Qualitative research with GPs on the fit note was published in November 2011 and is available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/rr_abstracts/rra_780.asp

Two further pieces of research, an employee survey and a project involving the collection of fit note data, which will examine causes of sickness absence from work where a fit note was issued, will be published at the end of 2012 and in summer 2013 respectively.

The Department plans to publish an evaluation of the occupational health advice service pilots in February 2012. An interim report was published in the summer and is available at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/summ2011-2012/DWP_occ_health_summ.pdf

The Department plans to publish data from year one of the fit for work service pilots, including research with clients, management information, and interviews with key stakeholders, in early 2012. The final evaluation report, which will include interviews with service users and comparison data for an impact study, will be published in late 2012.

Every Decision Counts

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Every Decision Counts events his Department has held *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each region. [87305]

Chris Grayling: A total of 11 Every Decision Counts events have been held since September 2010. The events are telephone audio conferences and are open to decision makers within DWP the Benefits Directorate across all regions of the UK.

General Medical Council

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has made a submission to the General Medical Council consultation on good medical practice on the duty of a health care professional and the return of a patient to employment. [87535]

Chris Grayling: The Department did make a recent submission to the General Medical Council's consultation on good medical practice. This has been placed in the Library.

Housing Benefit: Offenders

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to include ex-offenders in the category of vulnerable people for the purposes of direct payment of housing benefit to landlords. [87734]

Steve Webb: Currently in housing benefit, for the vast majority of tenants in the social rented sector, rent is paid direct to the landlord. In the private rented sector, the local housing allowance is paid direct to the tenant unless they have built up arrears of eight weeks or more. Additional safeguards are in place for people to allow for payment to the landlord where the local authority feels that a tenant is likely to have difficulty paying their rent. This could include people who have recently left prison.

In preparation for universal credit, we are running six housing demonstration projects from June 2012 to June 2013 to test out elements of a direct payment to tenant process. This includes testing how we can provide support and exemptions for those who are less able to manage financially. An evaluation of the projects will be conducted by independent contractors; CRESR at Sheffield Hallam University, the Oxford Institute of Social Policy (OISP) at the University of Oxford, and Ipsos MORI.

Housing Benefit: Pensioners

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the *(a)* equity and *(b)* financial pressures on other vulnerable groups arising from the measures in respect of pensioners proposed for housing benefit reform. [87660]

Steve Webb: As part of the proposed benefit reforms outlined in the Welfare Reform Bill, housing benefit will be abolished. The proposal is that support for eligible rent for pensioners will form part of pension credit with the introduction of a new housing credit. The policy on this housing credit is still being developed and the impacts will form part of the overall assessment being developed to support the Welfare Reform Bill. This will include the impacts on all groups from the wider benefit reforms being proposed. I have included a list of published impact assessments on housing benefit reform as follows:

Consumer prices index uprating of local housing allowance (Welfare Reform Bill)

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/hb-lha-cpi-uprating-wr2011-ia.pdf

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-lha-cpi-uprating-wr2011.pdf

Local housing allowance changes

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lha-impact-nov10.pdf

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/impacts-of-hb-proposals.pdf

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lha-eia-nov10.pdf

Non-dependant deduction changes

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-ndd-2011.pdf

Housing Benefit: Tenants

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to seek the views of tenants on whether the housing benefit element of universal credit should be paid directly to the tenant rather than the registered social landlord. [86756]

Steve Webb: My officials regularly attend housing forums and conferences at which tenants and their organisations are present. More specifically we shall be engaging with tenants as part of the demonstration projects, due to commence in June 2012. A major aspect of the projects will be an independent evaluation which will look at the claimant experience.

More information on the demonstration projects can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare%2Dreform/housing%2Dsupport/social%2Dsector/

Incapacity Benefits

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he last reviewed the incapacity benefit reassessment letters; if he will publish the outcome of his most recent review of the incapacity benefit reassessment letters; and when he next plans to review the incapacity benefit reassessment letters. [87298]

Chris Grayling: In May 2011 changes were made to reassessment letters as part of a release of various IT improvements to reflect feedback that had been received about the quality of reassessment letters from claimants and customer representative groups. There are no plans for a general review of all reassessment letters or for publication of such a review. We continue to keep letters under review in the light of feedback received and other changes such as amendments to legislation.

Jobcentre Plus: Hearing Impairment

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to promote deaf awareness amongst Jobcentre Plus staff. [87584]

Chris Grayling: All Jobcentre Plus staff undertake diversity and equality learning to raise awareness and help them understand issues faced by disabled customers and claimants, including those who are deaf or hearing impaired and other customers with "hidden" disabilities. Jobcentre Plus advisers and disability employment advisers also receive additional training on disability to enable them to provide the right support to individual customers and claimants. This is supplemented by guidance which includes advice on making reasonable adjustments for disabled people, including deaf people, to ensure they have full access to services. This approach ensures staff are fully equipped to deal effectively with the needs of a diverse customer base.

Training packages also stress the importance of signposting customers and claimants to organisations where they can obtain specialist help and support, when required. The learning includes improving accessibility to Jobcentre Plus services by supporting customers and claimants with specific communication barriers, including the use of loop-aids, text phones, "typetalk" and interpreters. There is also practical advice given on talking to customers and claimants with a hearing impairment. Jobcentre Plus and DWP learning and support materials are updated regularly to ensure they reflect advancements in practices and techniques, enabling staff to provide a high quality, personalised and flexible service to meet the needs of all our customers and claimants.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria will be used to determine eligibility for his proposed wage incentives scheme after *(a)* three and *(b)* six months in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [87736]

Chris Grayling: 160,000 wage incentives worth £2,275 each will be available to employers who recruit an 18 to 24-year-old who is participating in the Work programme.

The point at which an 18 to 24-year-old is referred to the Work programme depends on the type of benefit they are claiming and their individual circumstances.

Some of the most disadvantaged young people claiming jobseekers allowance (JSA) will be required to participate in the Work programme after three months of their claim to JSA. Others, for example care leavers and those with substance abuse problems, have the option of accessing the Work Programme after three months of their JSA claim. 18 to 24-year-olds without additional disadvantages will be referred to the Work programme after nine months.

18 to 24-year-olds claiming employment and support allowance (ESA) who are expected to be fit for work within 3 or 6 months are required to participate in the Work programme from the date of their work capability assessment. All other 18 to 24-year-olds claiming ESA can volunteer for the Work programme from the date of their work capability assessment.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Bridgend

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claim jobseeker's allowance (JSA) in Bridgend constituency; how many people he estimates would receive JSA if the work capability assessment (WCA) were applied to all existing recipients of employment and support allowance (ESA) and incapacity benefit (IB) in Bridgend constituency; how many people he estimates would be in the work-related group of ESA if the WCA were applied to all existing recipients of ESA and IB in Bridgend constituency; how many job vacancies originating in Bridgend constituency were advertised by Jobcentre Plus in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [86928]

Chris Grayling: In November 2011, 1,809 people were claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) in the Bridgend constituency.

In May 2011, the latest date for which figures are available, there were 1,230 claimants of employment and support allowance (ESA) in Bridgend constituency, of which, 440 were in the work-related activity group. There were also 3,400 working-age claimants of old-style incapacity benefits (incapacity benefit, income support on the grounds of incapacity, and severe disablement allowance).

The Department regularly publishes national and regional information on the outcomes of the work capability assessment (WCA) for ESA claimants. Equivalent information is not available at parliamentary constituency level. However, for Bridgend unitary authority, for all initial WCAs completed between October 2008 and May 2011, 2,200 (60%) were assessed to be fit for work. Of those who have subsequently closed their claim, around 800 went on to make a claim for JSA shortly after being assessed as fit for work. There may also be some individuals who did not initially move on to JSA but made a claim at a later date. However, of those who have claimed JSA since closing an ESA claim, some will have since moved off benefits altogether.

Many existing IB claimants in Bridgend will be undergoing reassessment over a three-year period from April 2011 and it is not possible to determine at this early stage how many people will be assessed as in the work-related activity group or how many will claim JSA as a result of being assessed as fit for work.

Jobcentre Plus has received the following vacancies over the past year:

Vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus, Bridgend

	Number
2010	
December	431
2011	
January	483
February	579
March	439
April	676
May	991
June	1,011
July	673
August	560
September	601
October	660
November	545

Note:
Figures are not seasonally adjusted but are standardised on to a 4 1/3 week basis.
Source:
www.nomisweb.co.uk

Office for Nuclear Regulation: Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 582W, on departmental pay, for what reason and on what date the decision was taken to pay two senior staff in the Office for Nuclear Regulation by means of payments to limited companies in lieu of a salary; and if he will make a statement. [87766]

Chris Grayling: These arrangements were entered into for the first interim in November 2008 and the second in February 2010. The decisions to do so were taken in the preceding weeks in each case to fill quickly temporary senior staff positions needed in the nuclear regulatory area of HSE. The cost of the posts is recovered from the nuclear industry, The individuals concerned were not available for employment except through payment to limited companies.

Part-time Employment: Pensions

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of part-time workers are members of a pension scheme. [86375]

Steve Webb: In 2010, 34% of part-time employees in Great Britain were members of an occupational pension scheme.

This comprises 39% part-time females (2.1 million) and 19% part-time males (0.3 million).

Pension Credit: Bridgend

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the annual level of savings to the public purse which will accrue

from reforming pension credit to require both partners to be eligible for pension credit in order to qualify for the couples rate; how many couples in Bridgend constituency comprise one person of working age and one person eligible for pension credit; and if he will make a statement. [86930]

Steve Webb: The Government have decided that for households where one member of a couple is over the qualifying age for pension credit and the other member is of working age, only universal credit will be available.

The Government believe that all people of working age who can work should be expected to do so and that it is not right to continue the current position where pension credit can go to households which contain a person of working age without that person having to meet any work-related requirements. The universal credit approach provides financial support to such couples, while giving the working age member of the couple access to support in finding work.

We have already acknowledged that it will be important not to undermine the stability and outcomes for existing pension credit customers, so the change will not apply to couples already in receipt who will continue to get pension credit while they retain entitlement.

It is estimated that this policy could save up to £100 million over this spending review. Because of the interaction with other changes to support pensioners, which are still being developed, we are not yet able to provide a firm estimate for a long-run figure for savings.

There are approximately *100 claimants on pension credit in the Bridgend constituency with a partner aged under 60.

Notes:

1. *This figure is based on very few sample cases and is subject to a high degree of sampling variation.

2. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

3. The estimate of the number of claimants assumes that pension credit is available when one partner reaches age 60. However, the qualifying age for pension credit is increasing in line with the increase in women's state pension age. At February 2011, the qualifying age for pension credit was between 60 and four months and 60 and five months. Current data do not allow analysis that takes account of the increase in qualifying age.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample.

Pensioners: Personal Income

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioner households whose combined income is higher than the average combined working household income. [87390]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member on 14 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 762W. Since some pensioner benefits—notably pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit—are paid to couples, rather than individuals, it is only possible with the data available to provide an answer at household level.

Pensions

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what dates *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* senior officials in his Department have met representatives of (i) the British Bankers Association and (ii) the Association of British Insurers to discuss the charges or commission or fees paid by people with a private pension; and if he will make a statement. [86865]

Steve Webb: The Department publishes on a quarterly basis details of all meetings between DWP Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and external organisations. The following links will give access to information up to and including 30 June 2011.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/corporate-publications/ministers-meetings-overseas.shtml

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/corporate-publications/ps-meetings-external-orgs.shtml

Senior officials have met with representatives of the Association of British Insurers. One meeting, on 2 November, included a discussion of the issues concerned.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to reduce the burden of administration for the pensions industry. [87666]

Steve Webb: The burden of administration for the pensions industry will be reviewed as part of the Department's response to the Red Tape Challenge.

The Red Tape Challenge (RTC) is a cross-government initiative, led by Cabinet Office, which seeks to review all Government legislation, with an emphasis on those statutory instruments which affect business. The aim of the RTC is to revoke or simplify as much legislation as possible to ease burdens on employers and business.

Pensions will be highlighted as a main theme on the RTC website in spring for three weeks. This Spotlight period will encourage members of the public to reflect on pensions regulations and provide a focus for the pensions part of the RTC generally.

The Department views this as a real opportunity to look objectively at pensions policy and go back to first principles to consider whether the legislation as it stands reflects the Department's priorities, is generally fit for purpose and does not place undue burdens on the pensions industry. We are in the early stages of this process.

We will be looking to work closely with stakeholders on the RTC throughout this process—beginning in the new year. There will be extensive scope for all interested parties to offer their views on how pension legislation can be simplified and what can be removed.

In addition, we are also reviewing the legislation which requires pension schemes to disclose information to their members (and others—beneficiaries, for example). Our aim is to consolidate, clarify and, where possible, harmonise the requirements for occupational and personal pension schemes. We are also deleting some requirements and enabling schemes to disclose more information electronically. We intend to consult on draft regulations

and introduce the updated legislation during 2012; early discussions with stakeholders indicate that they support the proposals.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes he expects to projected spending on each benefit for which his Department is responsible as a result of the measures announced in the Autumn Statement. [85438]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is shown in the following tables:

Housing benefit: Exemption from the shared room rate for former rough sleepers and ex-offenders

	Benefit expenditure change (£ million)				
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Housing benefit	10	15	15	15	15

Jobseeker's allowance: Access to full-time training

	Benefit expenditure change (£ million)				
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Jobseeker's allowance	5	5	5	5	5

Working tax credit: Freeze the couple and lone parent elements for one year in 2012-13; Child tax credit: Remove the £110 child element for 2012-13

	Benefit expenditure change (£ million)				
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Income support	-5	-5	—	—	—
Housing benefit	55	55	57	59	61

Pension credit uprating

	Benefit expenditure change (£ million)				
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Pension credit	-10	-10	-10	-12	-14
Council tax benefit	4	5	5	5	5
Rent allowance	6	7	7	7	7

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £ million.
2. Expenditure shown is for Great Britain.

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long a citizen of an east European (A8) member of the EU has to be in the UK before they can claim *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* other benefits. [87782]

Chris Grayling: There is no set period in which an A8[1] national must reside in the UK before they can claim benefits. Since 1 May 2011, A8 nationals have had the same access to the UK labour market and benefit system as nationals of other, longer established EEA member states.

To claim any benefit, individuals must meet the normal entitlement conditions of that benefit, including any residence requirements. For example, A8 nationals who have worked in the UK and paid national insurance contributions may claim contributory benefits such as contribution-based jobseeker's allowance as soon as they satisfy the contributions and other conditions for the benefit.

A8 workers, like any other EEA nationals who have not paid sufficient contributions may claim income-based jobseeker's allowance providing they satisfy the habitual residence test. This requires an individual to demonstrate that they have a right to reside and are habitually resident in the common travel area[2]. Those who are not defined as workers or who are not actively seeking work are generally unable to claim any income-related benefits regardless of the length of time they have lived in the UK.

The UK non-contributory disability benefits (disability living allowance, attendance allowance and carer's allowance) have residence and presence conditions, which require claimants to be ordinarily resident and to be present in the UK for 26 out of the last 52 weeks. Migrants do not have to satisfy the residence and presence conditions so long as they remain in work in the UK. In other cases, where the claimant has not been present for 26 out of 52 weeks, the UK must consider whether the claimant has a sufficient link to the UK before allowing a claim.

[1] The Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

[2] The United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, and the Republic of Ireland.

Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what circumstances the pay and conditions of employees transferred out of public sector employment under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 may be reduced in their new employment; and if he will make a statement. [86877]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply as Minister with responsibility for employment law. The pay and conditions (excluding certain occupational pension rights) of employees transferred out of the public sector under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 may not be reduced as part of a transfer, unless there is an economic, technical or organisational reason requiring changes to the workforce.

Occupational pension rights earned up to the time of the transfer are protected by social security legislation and pension trust arrangements. The new employer is not required to continue identical occupational pension arrangements for the transferred employees. However, where employees were entitled to participate in an occupational pension scheme prior to the transfer, the new employer must establish a minimum level of pension provision.

Unemployed People: Medical Conditions

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people unable to work due to endometriosis; [87208]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people unable to work due to inflammatory bowel disease. [87222]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is given as follows.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and employment support allowance claimants with a medical condition—May 2011

Medical condition	*Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance*	*Employment and support allowance*
Endometriosis	810	450
Inflammatory Bowel Disease	8,650	2,740

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Incapacity benefit was replaced for new cases by employment support allowance (ESA) From 27 October 2008.
3. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
4. To qualify for incapacity benefit (IB), claimants have to undertake an assessment of incapacity for work called a personal capability assessment.
Under the employment support allowance regime, new claimants have to undergo the work capability assessment. From April 2011 Incapacity benefit recipients will begin also to undertake this assessment. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for customer claiming Incapacity Benefit on the basis of alcoholism would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the personal/work capability assessment; or on the effects of any associated mental health problems.
5. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim, this in itself does not confer entitlement to incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance or employment and support allowance and may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. Please also note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded.
6. The category 'Inflammatory Bowel Disease' includes those with the 'Crohns Disease' and 'Ulcerative Colitis' diagnoses.
Sources:
1. DWP Information, Governance and Security.
2. Directorate: 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Vocational Training

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish his skills strategy. [84121]

Mr Hayes: I have been asked to reply.

The Government published their skills strategy "Skills for Sustainable Growth" alongside "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" in November 2010. The documents together describe the principles, objectives and direction of our reforms of the skills system. Since then we have greatly expanded apprenticeships places, introduced major local freedoms and flexibilities in skills provision placing learners, employers and communities in the driving seat, and introduced the Growth and Innovation Fund (GIF). The GIF will help businesses to act collectively to develop effective solutions to skills barriers that are hampering their growth potential.

Apprenticeships are at the heart of the system we are building, and we are well on course to deliver at least 250,000 more apprenticeships over the next four years compared with the previous Administration's plans. Our ambition is that the UK should have a world class skills base that is socially inclusive, supports growth and provides a consistent source of competitive advantage. "Skills for Sustainable Growth" and "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" can be accessed at

www.bis.gov.uk/skillsforgrowth

On 1 December, this Department published "New Challenges, New Chances" describing the Government's strategy for further education and skills for the rest of this Parliament. I wrote to all MPs on 5 December setting out our reform plan and how it will build on the successes already achieved, based on the principles underpinning "Skills for Sustainable Growth". It will also take into account the responses to our "New Challenges, New Chances" consultation which can be accessed at

www.bis.gov.uk/consultations

As a model of public sector reform, we are simultaneously reducing legislative burdens and removing centrally dictated restraints to empower learners to shape the skills system, from basic skills provision through to the higher level skills most critical to growth. Copies of all the documents referred to are available in the Libraries of the House.

Work Capability Assessment

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the report on the work capability assessment by Professor Harrington, what additional support measures he has put in place for those undergoing the work capability assessment. [87295]

Chris Grayling: We are committed to continuously improving the work capability assessment (WCA) to ensure that it is as fair and accurate as possible. Good progress has been made in improving the process, as reflected by Professor Harrington in his second independent review of the WCA. In this review he stated that,

"The WCA has, in my view, noticeably changed for the better".

To further improving the WCA process, Professor Harrington has made some additional recommendations in his second independent review. We welcome these recommendations and have accepted the majority of them. We are also carrying out further work to consider how we may take forward the remaining recommendations.

We will continue to review and refine the WCA to ensure that it is more effective; fairer for all claimants and as a result fairer for the taxpayer.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions an individual who has undergone a work capability assessment since 6 June 2011 has not received a personalised summary statement of the work capability assessment in plain English. [87300]

Chris Grayling: The personalised summary statement was included in the Atos assessment report and made available to DWP decision makers from 6 June 2011. However the statements have not been routinely shared with all claimants. A trial was completed between 11 July and 9 September 2011 to issue the personalised summary statement to disallowed ESA claimants. A total of 452 statements were issued as part of this trial. Following this, a separate trial commenced in Oldham benefit centre on 12 September 2011 to routinely share with disallowed claimants the decision maker's reasons for the decision instead of the Atos statement. Based on the Oldham trial, issuing the decision maker's reasons for the decision is being introduced nationally from January 2012 for IB reassessment and ESA claimants found to have no limited capability for work. The Atos assessment report, which includes the personalised summary statement, is available to all claimants on request.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish the outcome of the trials of personalised summary

statements in *(a)* Wrexham and *(b)* Oldham benefit centre; and if he will make a statement. [87301]

Chris Grayling: There are no plans to publish the outcomes from the trials in Wrexham and Oldham benefit centres. Professor Harrington recommended as part of his first review issuing the Atos personalised summary statement to all claimants. The outcome of the trial in Wrexham benefit centre issuing the Atos personalised summary statement to disallowed claimants was discussed with Professor Harrington and a change to his original recommendation agreed: to issue the decision maker's reasons for the decision instead of the Atos statement. This better aligns with his other recommendations to support claimants through the claim process and to put decision makers at the heart of that process. Issuing the decision maker's reasons for the decision has been trialled in Oldham and on the basis of this trial is to be introduced nationally in the new year. Professor Harrington endorses this in his second review, noting it as a considerable improvement on his original recommendation. It will continue to be monitored as part of ongoing evaluation.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish the outcome of the audio recording pilot in the Newcastle assessment centre. [87303]

Chris Grayling: We have received the evaluation report of the pilot. We are currently considering the evaluation evidence carefully to understand the costs and implications of audio recording as well as whether it will improve the assessment further for individuals.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he last reviewed the quality checks to improve decision making standards in relation to the work capability assessment; when he plans to publish the outcomes of his most recent review of the quality checks to improve decision making standards in relation to work capability assessment; and when he next plans to review the quality checks to improve decision making standards in relation to the work capability assessment. [87306]

Chris Grayling: Quality checks in relation to the work capability assessment were introduced in August. The check is an internal one and is used to give individual feedback to decision makers. There are no plans to publish this information.

These new checks are being monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis. There was a national calibration exercise at the end of November to check standards across the country and a further event is planned for April.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the decision by the General Medical Council (GMC) of 4 October 2010 that an Atos Healthcare professional carrying out an assessment of a claimant's suitability for disability living allowance is not subject to paragraph 2(a) of the good medical practice guidance; and what discussions he has had with the GMC on this issue. [87534]

Chris Grayling: The Department has not made any assessment of the decision, nor have there been any discussions with the GMC on this issue.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what auditing process is undertaken by his Department in relation to the number of successful appeals by those found fit for work by Atos Healthcare and his Department's decision makers following a work capability assessment. [87677]

Chris Grayling: All allowed appeals are referred back to DWP decision makers so that any learning points can be identified. Local arrangements are in place to cascade relevant information as appropriate. DWP is also working with HMCTS to identify any trends in decisions which it could usefully address.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been found fit for work under the work capability assessment who had submitted an appeal against that decision and subsequently died prior to the appeal being heard. [87678]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions does not record the information requested. However, HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) management information indicates that between October 2008 and October 2011, the most recent reported period, 31 appeals against decisions relating to work capability assessments have been withdrawn following the notification of death of the appellant. HMCTS cannot identify which of these appeals were against decisions where the appellant was assessed as fit for work.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what follow-up procedures are in place to determine the reason for a claimant's failure to attend a work capability assessment. [87689]

Chris Grayling: When a claimant fails to attend a work capability assessment, medical services will write to the claimant asking why they have not attended. The letter asks the claimant to reply to the benefit centre dealing with their claim within seven days.

At the same time, medical services separately notifies the benefit centre that the claimant has failed to attend.

Where the claimant is considered vulnerable because of their particular health condition a decision maker will attempt to make contact by telephone.

If we are unable to contact a vulnerable person, the Department will attempt to visit the claimant to establish their reason for not attending.

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on implementing the *(a)* proposals to revise the work capability assessment for people with fluctuating conditions and *(b)* other recommendations of the year two review of the work capability assessment by Professor Harrington. [87714]

Chris Grayling: Professor Harrington submitted the recommendations of the group looking at fluctuating conditions to the Department in late November 2011. The Department is now considering these recommendations carefully before coming forward with a response.

The Department welcomes the recommendations of Professor Harrington's second independent review and has set out its response to each recommendation in the Government response to the review published on 24 November 2011.

To date we have receive no representations on these specific issues.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether Atos Healthcare undertakes any assessment of the outcome of appeals on work capability assessment. [87532]

Chris Grayling: Atos Healthcare assess feedback from the Appeals Tribunal Service, where its medical assessment is identified as substandard. The Appeals Tribunal Service handle appeals of the Department for Work and Pensions' decision about a claimant's entitlement to a benefit following a work capability assessment.

Work Experience: Young People

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how businesses will be recruited to take part in his Department's work experience scheme for 18 to 24 year-olds. [87730]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus is responsible for working with host businesses to source suitable work experience placements. This partnership working has already generated thousands of opportunities across the country.

Jobcentre Plus supports employers to plan placements which are hands-on, provide opportunities for skills development, and expose participants to the routines of the working environment.

Employers of all sizes in any sector can offer work experience so long as they can meet the terms and conditions set out in their agreement with Jobcentre Plus.

New host business can find help and guidance on how they may be able to participate through both the Department for Work and Pensions and Business Link websites.

Work Programme

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people aged over 50 years who will find sustainable employment through the Work programme in *(a)* the east midlands region and *(b)* Leicester city in each of the next three years. [87656]

Chris Grayling: The Department has not set Work programme performance expectations specifically for people aged over 50 years.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the proportion of land in the UK that is not farmed under Pillar 2 agri-environment schemes. [86946]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA only holds data for England. The following table shows the proportion of land areas in England not covered by agri-environment schemes.

	Area (thousand ha)	*Proportion of land NOT in agri-environment schemes (%)*
Environmental Stewardship (a)	5725	—
Predecessor (Countryside Stewardship and Environmentally Sensitive Areas) schemes (a)	515	—
Total land in agri-environment schemes	6240	—
Total utilised agricultural area (UAA) 2011 (b)	8863	30
Total agricultural area 2011 (b)	9314	33
Total land area of England (c)	13043	52

Sources:
(a) Natural England as at end November 2011
(b) DEFRA June survey of Agriculture 2011. UAA includes cropped areas, uncropped arable land, common rough grazing, temporary and permanent grassland and land used for outdoor pigs. It excludes woodland and non-agricultural land on agricultural holdings e.g. tracks, ponds etc. Total agricultural area is defined as UAA plus woodland and non-agricultural land on agricultural holdings e.g. tracks, ponds etc.
(c) Office for National Statistics. Total area of England is defined as the Area to Mean High Water.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether animal circuses have been inspected by DEFRA-appointed inspectors or vets in the last decade; and if she will place in the Library a copy of any inspection reports. [70909]

Mr Paice: A number of inspections of animals in travelling circuses have been conducted by DEFRA-appointed inspectors or vets in the past decade. However, no central record is kept of such inspections, nor of any reports which might have been written as a result of an inspection. The three inspections carried out for DEFRA in 2008 as part of a feasibility study to evaluate the potential of an inspection system for such circuses were conducted on a confidential basis, and as a consequence we will not release these reports.

The proposed new circus animal licensing scheme will put inspections on a formal, statutory, footing. The new scheme will ensure that we have a record of all the licensing inspections carried out in circuses. We will also want to consider what information about, and from, the inspections should be made available publicly to ensure that the scheme is as transparent as possible.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration she has given to the use of alternatives to the culling of badgers for the purposes of controlling bovine TB. [86590]

Mr Paice: Cattle measures will continue to be the foundation of DEFRA's control programme across England. However, we know that to tackle this disease we need to look at each and every transmission route, and that includes transmission from badgers to cattle. Good biosecurity practices are important but on-farm biosecurity controls are likely only to reduce, not eliminate, TB transmission risks from infectious badgers. Ultimately, we want to be able to vaccinate cattle and badgers, but there are practical difficulties with the injectable badger vaccine, which is currently the only available option. We are working hard to develop a cattle vaccine and an oral badger vaccine, but usable and approved vaccines are still years away and we cannot say with any certainty when they will be ready.

In addition, veterinary and scientific advice is that culling in high TB incidence areas, carried out in line with the licence criteria, will reduce the number of infected badgers, and thus the weight of TB infection in badger populations in the treatment area, more quickly than vaccination. It will therefore have a greater and more immediate beneficial impact on the spread of TB to cattle and the incidence of infection in cattle.

The policy statement published on 14 December provides further details. This is available at

http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13691-bovinetb-policy-statement.pdf

Canal and River Trust

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingency measures are being put in place by her Department to protect the new Canal and River Trust from the risk of unpredictable major infrastructure failures. [86398]

Richard Benyon: The Government are committed to ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for the waterways. Negotiations are currently under way between the Government and the Transition Trustees of the Canal and River Trust (CRT) to secure a long-term funding agreement for the waterways.

Subject to parliamentary approval, the CRT will take over the statutory functions undertaken by British Waterways to maintain the waterways in England and Wales. It will inherit from British Waterways a risk management strategy to deal with any infrastructure failures, including setting aside a contingency fund on an annual basis, and like British Waterways will be able to divert funds from planned spending should any unplanned incidents occur.

Once the funding agreement has been reached, the Government will expect the CRT, as is currently the case with British Waterways, to operate and maintain the canal network in a way which enables it to deal with infrastructure failures without additional support from the Government, as is currently the case with British Waterways. The CRT will have access to new income streams such as donations, charitable grants and legacies, an ability to borrow against its property assets, wider commercial opportunities and fundraising.

Dangerous Dogs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons are for the time taken in bringing forward proposals to address dangerous dogs. [80992]

Mr Paice: My noble Friend, Lord Taylor of Holbeach, who leads on the subject of dangerous dogs in DEFRA, has been working alongside Lord Henley to see how the proposed antisocial measures currently being developed in the Home Office can be best applied to such behaviour relating to dogs. DEFRA has also been developing proposals on reducing dog attacks and promoting more responsible dog ownership. This is now at an advanced stage and, subject to ministerial clearance, we will be able to make an announcement early in the new year.

Food Labelling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether food and catering services in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* public bodies for which she is responsible plan to implement calorie labelling on menus and display boards. [85846]

Richard Benyon: Government buying standards (GBS) for food and catering, which were introduced for the first time in June this year, are designed to help people make healthier choices as well as promote more sustainable sourcing and operations in catering services. GBS are mandatory for central Government and are being promoted across the public sector. The best practice criteria include calorie and allergen labelling on menus.

DEFRA's catering contract with Eurest covers core DEFRA, the Rural Payments Agency, the Marine Management Organisation, the Food and Environment Research Agency, the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Natural England, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. DEFRA's caterer has agreed to include calorie labelling on menu boards and this is rolling out across the DEFRA estate.

The Environment Agency has a separate catering contract to DEFRA. Menus and display boards at the Environment Agency currently have healthy eating, vegetarian and organic labelling. The Environment Agency will be re-tendering food and catering services in early 2012 and will include calorie labelling at this point.

Consultants

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on consultancy by her Department since May 2010. [80270]

Richard Benyon: The core Department has spent £10,198,919 on consultancy in the period May 2010 to October 2011.

Design Services

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on design in respect of *(a)* logos, *(b)* buildings, *(c)* advertising, *(d)* stationery and *(e)* campaigns in the last year for which figures are available. [80207]

Richard Benyon: For the 2010-11 financial year the information is:

(a) £5,857 so that the DEFRA logo and brand could be used more easily on websites, including reducing the amount of ink needed for printing.

(b) £0

(c) and *(e)* £15,617 on design costs on campaigns, which includes advertising spend when it has formed part of a campaign. This includes public information material, for example, on plant and animal health.

(d) £0

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any senior staff in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if she will publish her policy on such payments. [85079]

Richard Benyon: All senior staff (SCS equivalent and above) employed directly by the Department, employed directly in our executive agencies (Animal Health Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Rural Payments Agency, Food and Environment Research Agency and Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science) and employed directly in our main executive non-departmental public bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England, Gangmasters Licensing Authority, Consumer Council for Water, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Marine Management Organisation and Joint Nature Conservation Committee) are covered by the Treasury's pay remit process, are paid through payroll.

Departmental Recycling

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she is taking steps to increase the proportion of waste recycled by her Department. [85382]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA and its agencies have reduced the quantity of waste they generate by 30% compared with 2004-05 levels, and in 2010-11, a 42% recycling rate was achieved. Our waste is managed according to the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle hierarchy; this arrangement ensures that all waste is disposed of in the most environmentally responsible manner.

We have introduced food waste collections for composting from our London, Alnwick and York sites. Our "bin the bin" programme removed desk-side bins and encouraged staff to recycle their waste. This resulted in recycling rates increasing from an average of 35% to 82% at the sites involved.

DEFRA's procurement team is working with suppliers for new contracts to minimise packaging waste and to consider sustainability more widely in their service provision.

A significant quantity of the Department's waste (approximately 67%) is generated by the laboratory estate and is the result of scientific research into plant and animal disease. For environmental protection reasons, this waste cannot be recycled and currently, the Department has no option other than to send it to landfill or destroy it by incineration (much of which includes energy recovery). Over 75% of non-laboratory waste is already recycled. We are currently investigating opportunities for minimising laboratory waste sent to landfill.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications to run services for which her Department is directly responsible she has received from employees in her Department since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [77607]

Richard Benyon: We have not received any applications from employees to run services for which the Department is directly responsible.

Departmental Travel Expenditure

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on travel by officials of her Department since May 2010. [80267]

Richard Benyon: The total amount spent on travel by officials within the Department since May 2010 through to November 2011 is £2,992,374. This does not include Ministers and costs relating to their office.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85924]

Richard Benyon: The volume of substantive answers to written questions, and the proportion they represent, can be found in the following table.

Number of written PQs due between May 2010 and October 2011[1]

	Number/percentage
Number of written PQs	2,908
Of which:	
Number answered	2,896
Answered within 10 days	2,680
Percentage	92
Answered within 20 days	133
Percentage	5
Answered within 30 days	52
Percentage	2
Answered in more than30 days	31
Percentage	1

[1] Not including transfers.

Farmers: Compensation

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers have received reduced compensation as a result of falling behind in the timetable for testing for tuberculosis in their cattle since July 2011. [87685]

Mr Paice: As set out in the Bovine TB Eradication Programme for England published in July, we plan to reduce compensation payments where TB tests are significantly overdue. We are currently consulting on proposals to make this and other changes to the Cattle Compensation (England) Order 2006, the secondary legislation covering the TB (and other diseases) cattle compensation system, from April 2012.

Forestry

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what area of *(a)* lowland heathland and *(b)* other priority open habitat has been recreated by (i) Forestry Commission England, (ii) other Government Departments and (iii) non-governmental organisations since the publication of the Forestry Commission document entitled "When to convert woods and forests to open habitats in England: Government Policy." [86703]

Richard Benyon: This information is not yet available. Restoration of open habitat from forests and woodland in all ownerships is one of Forestry Commission England's impact indicators for 2011-15 and it is planning to publish this information annually commencing in May or June 2012.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the England Biodiversity Strategy's aspiration to create 200,000 hectares of new wildlife habitat by 2020 she estimates will be created under the provisions outlined in the Forestry Commission document, entitled "When to convert woods and forests to open habitats in England: Government Policy." [86704]

Richard Benyon: We are currently developing the delivery plan for "Biodiversity 2020", including working with partners to agree a more detailed plan for on-the-ground delivery action. This will provide more detail on how the biodiversity strategy's outcomes will be taken forward and is expected to be completed in spring 2012.

Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has received assurances from her ministerial colleagues that all Government Departments will be fully compliant with her Department's new mandatory buying standards by 1 January 2012. [86961]

Richard Benyon: This Government introduced the Government Buying Standards for food and catering in June this year and they came into effect in September. Now, for the first time, all central Government Departments have committed to procuring healthy, sustainable food and responsible catering operations. All new food and catering contracts, including DEFRA's own, will be fully compliant with these standards. Central Government are committed to looking at pre-existing contracts for cost-effective opportunities to meet the standards. Departments will be reporting their performance in line with their normal performance reporting schedules.

Local Nature Partnerships

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the participation of local authorities in Local Nature Partnerships. [87152]

Richard Benyon: In the Natural Environment White Paper, Government committed to supporting local nature partnerships (LNPs), where local areas wish to establish them, to work at a strategic scale to improve the range of benefits and services we get from a healthy natural environment. We want each LNP to develop and work in the most appropriate way for its local area. Local authorities have clear interests in the work of LNPs and would be appropriate members if they feel that it is in the interests of their communities to be so.

Marine Conservation Zones

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who will be responsible for gathering evidence to support marine conservation zone designation. [82469]

Richard Benyon: The four marine conservation zone (MCZ) regional projects were responsible for collecting the evidence that underpinned their advice on recommended marine conservation zones (rMCZs). The Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs), Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee will also collect and use other relevant evidence as part of the process for preparing their advice to DEFRA.

At the same time, DEFRA is commissioning an in-depth review of evidence available for the rMCZs to ensure that all relevant evidence has been gathered and used appropriately. This review will report jointly to DEFRA and the SNCBs and is expected to inform the formal SNCB advice. DEFRA will also be commissioning some seabed and habitat monitoring.

Natural Gas: Exploration

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 690-1W, on natural gas: exploration, what hazard data and classifications are relevant to each of the substances used for hydraulic fracturing in the UK; and whether the use of each of the substances in hydraulic fracturing has been correctly notified in accordance with the registration requirements set out in EU Regulation 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Registration of Chemicals. [82080]

Richard Benyon: The following chemicals have been used for hydraulic fracturing in the United Kingdom:

Chemical	*Classification (with R phrases)*
FR-40 (mixture)	None
Hydrochloric acid	Acute toxicity; Xn: R20/21/22 (harmful by inhalation, in contact with skin and if swallowed) Corrosive[1]; C: R34 (causes burns)

[1] Diluted hydrochloric acid is irritating to eyes, the respiratory system, and the skin.

At present, the requirement to register under REACH applies to substances which are manufactured in the EU or imported in quantities above 1,000 tonnes per year per manufacturer or importer. Lower tonnage thresholds apply for substances carrying certain hazard classifications.

The chemical substances used in hydraulic fracturing do not carry the relevant hazard classifications and are not used in sufficient volumes to trigger registration obligations. Therefore their use in hydraulic fracturing will not have triggered any registration obligations.

Polyacrylamide, the main ingredient of FR-40, is a polymer and as such is exempt from registration under REACH.

Looking at other similar uses, hydrochloric acid has been registered for use in mining.

Sheep: Disease Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which body records individual sheep movements *(a)* in North Yorkshire and *(b)* across England in respect of the monitoring and notification of notifiable disease. [85616]

Mr Paice: There is no requirement for movements of individual sheep to be recorded centrally. Individual movement records are maintained at farm level and, depending on when moved sheep were born, movement documents record either the individual sheep or the batch of sheep moved. Local authorities have responsibility for recording batch movement information of all sheep movements on DEFRA's animal movement licensing system. It is the responsibility of livestock keepers to monitor the health of their stock and it remains a legal requirement for anyone who suspects a notifiable disease may be present to report this to their local Animal Health Office. This is a key component of disease surveillance in England.

Solar Power

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* farmers and *(b)* landowners who have installed solar panels in their fields; and what assessment she has made of the potential effect of such a practice on income to domestic households from the feed-in tariff for solar photovoltaics. [87655]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply.

DECC does not hold data on the number of farmers and landowners who have installed solar panels in their fields. However, at the end of November 2011, there were 301 solar photovoltaic installations on feed-in tariffs for stand-alone systems (schemes that are not attached to a building).

The existence of installations in fields does not directly affect the potential income from FITs for domestic households. However, in setting future tariffs the Government need to take account of the total impact of the scheme on consumers' bills.

The impact assessment accompanying the Government's consultation on feed-in tariffs (FITs) for solar photovoltaics (PV), available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

This sets out the impact of our proposals on FITs support, generation and jobs.

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many carcases of each species have been examined in each regional veterinary laboratory for endemic disease purposes in each year since 2005. [85618]

Mr Paice: A document showing details of carcases examined for surveillance will be placed in the Library of the House. The information included is from 2005 to the present.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what safeguards will be in place to prevent the spread of animal disease *(a)* over the distances which the samples will have to travel for testing purposes and *(b)* from the decoupling of the test from the post mortem examination following the restructuring of the Veterinary Laboratory Agency. [85620]

Mr Paice: The safeguards that are and will be in place to prevent the spread of animal disease are:

(a) Biological samples are currently sent around the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency laboratory network as a routine practice. Samples are sent via specialist couriers in compliance with the required packaging standards (The European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and Carriage Regulations 2011), which are designed to prevent release of pathogens. The majority of samples are already sent to sites other than the post mortem site for processing.

(b) Decoupled tests—Some tests will remain at the site at which post-mortem examinations are being conducted. Otherwise, tests will be undertaken at the appropriate laboratory site depending on the tests required. These samples will be dispatched as above in *(a)*.

Veterinary Laboratories Agency: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which regional veterinary laboratory agency the samples from Thirsk and the surrounding areas will be taken for examination and testing following the restructuring of the regional veterinary laboratory service covering North Yorkshire. [85621]

Mr Paice: The veterinary laboratory service is a national service, rather than a regional one, with specialist laboratories undertaking tests from all around England

and Wales, e.g. polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests at Penrith and biochemistry tests at Shrewsbury. Until recently, a proportion of parasitology and bacteriology tests were undertaken locally, but now the majority of these tests will also be directed into specialist national laboratory centres.

A small number of tests will remain at the site at which post mortem examinations are being conducted. The remainder of tests required as a result of post mortems taking place on animals from Yorkshire will be undertaken at the appropriate specialist laboratory site depending on the tests required. Laboratories in Bury St Edmunds, Lasswade, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Penrith, Shrewsbury, Starcross, Sutton Bonington and Weybridge will carry out tests from around England and Wales.

Water Companies

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will direct water companies to factor into their long-term investment plans the upper and lower limits of population projections for 2050 made by the Office for National Statistics. [86818]

Richard Benyon: It is a statutory requirement for water companies to prepare and maintain water resources management plans, which include projections of current and future demands for water and how the companies aim to meet this demand over 25 years.

Water resources management plans take into account the most up-to-date information available on housing numbers and population forecasts. The plans present and consider both trend-based and policy-based population and household projections. They also ascertain differences and assess uncertainty in forecasts. The plans include any uncertainty associated with the forecasts in their assessment of target headroom (the buffer between supply and demand designed to cater for specified uncertainties) and an explanation of this allowance.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Libraries: Pay

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) if he will review the salary payable to the chief executive officer of the British Library to reflect her acceptance of a paid non-executive role at Ofcom; [86863]

(2) if he will investigate the acceptance by the chief executive officer of the British Library of a paid non-executive post at Ofcom; whether acceptance of this post contravenes the provision of section 6 of the British Library's staff handbook; and if he will make a statement. [86864]

Mr Vaizey: The appointment of non-executive members to the Ofcom board are made under a public appointment process which is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments and takes into account fully an applicant's existing commitments before deeming their suitability to take on additional roles. The British Library's staff handbook and salary reviews are matters for the British Library, at arm's length from Government.

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether companies bidding for contracts to supply goods or services to the organisers of the London 2012 Olympics are required to comply with each of the seven fundamental principles of Olympism; and if he will make a statement. [87453]

Hugh Robertson: Contracting for services and supply of goods to the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is a matter for LOCOG who adhere to their published Sustainable Sourcing Code. In its procurement process, LOCOG assesses tenders for value for money, which it defines on the basis of five broad areas—Quality/Delivery/Disposal; Commercial; Sustainability; Diversity and Inclusion; and Legal/Financial.

Bidders for Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) tenders are required to comply with ODA priority themes such as Equality and Inclusion, Sustainability and Health and Safety. These themes are built into our contracts and contractors are required to work towards our aims and aspirations in these areas as well as providing reporting data. Our suppliers are also required to follow similar procurement processes to our own, particularly in embodying transparency and equal treatment of all bidders.

The learning legacy website contains information on all of the ODA's priority themes at:

http://learninglegacy.london2012.com/

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has made an assessment of the compliance of Dow Chemicals' contract to supply the wrap on the London 2012 Olympics stadium with each of the seven fundamental principles of Olympism; and if he will make a statement. [87454]

Hugh Robertson: No such assessment has been made. Contracting for services and supply of goods to the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is a matter for LOCOG who adhere to their published Sustainable Sourcing Code. LOCOG entered into a competitive tendering process for the stadium wrap, and out of the companies that responded, Dow Chemical was able to produce the most sustainable wrap. This process has been independently verified by the Commission for a Sustainable London 2012. The International Olympic Committee appointed Dow Chemical as a global partner in 2010 and expects all their partners to meet their values.

Sports: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to improve the provision of community sport in Coventry. [87649]

Hugh Robertson: Through Whole Sport Plans, Sport England is investing £450 million through 46 national governing bodies over the next four years. The governing bodies work closely with their network of community sports clubs to invest funding at a local level. Coventry

South constituency has received a total of £7,532,714 lottery funding and £1,791,444 of Exchequer funding from Sport England since 1995.

In addition, the mass participation Olympic Legacy—Places People Play, will provide funding opportunities for community sports with £10 million for playing fields and £50 million for community sports facilities.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to protect playing fields in Coventry. [87650]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting playing fields. Recent figures published by Sport England show that 94.5% of concluded planning applications affecting playing fields in 2009-10 resulted in improved or safeguarded sports provision. The figures can be found at:

http://www.sportengland.org/about_us/our_news/playing_field_safeguards.aspx

In addition, Sport England is investing £10 million into protecting and improving playing fields, as part of the London 2012 mass participation sporting legacy "Places People Play". Sport England has also provided advice to Coventry city council in the preparation of a city-wide playing pitch strategy which will identify the current and future need for playing pitches in the city.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the desirability of changing the provision of equivalent value in the National Planning Policy Framework to instead calculate affordable housing provision as a proportion of both off-site and on-site housing. [87756]

Greg Clark: The draft National Planning Policy Framework asks local planning authorities, where they have identified that affordable housing is required, to set policies for meeting this need on site, unless off-site provision or a financial contribution of broadly equivalent value can be robustly justified. This reflects current policy to encourage on-site provision wherever practical. The consultation on the draft framework has closed and we are now considering all the responses.

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities require planning consent for premises to be used for bail accommodation. [87780]

Robert Neill: The Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for planning matters in Wales.

In England, planning permission will be required if a new building is being built. Where a change of use of an existing building occurs planning permission may be required. This will depend on the particular circumstances of each case, including what the existing use is and the scale of any external physical works.

Under the Use Classes Order in England, it is possible that bail accommodation could fall within the C2: Residential Institutions, C2A: Secure Residential Institutions, C3: Dwelling houses or be considered sui generis i.e. in a class of its own. It is for local planning authorities to determine which use class a particular use falls into and whether there has been a material change of use. They do so depending on the individual circumstances of each case.

Community Relations

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken on community cohesion and integration; and if he will make a statement. [87727]

Andrew Stunell: We are working closely with a number of Departments on issues of community cohesion and integration. The Government plan to publish a document setting out their approach to integration in due course. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), will make a statement to Parliament at this time.

Crime

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps he has taken to tackle hate crime since May 2010; what further steps he plans to take in each of the next two years; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement; [R] [86684]

(2) what reports he has received of the level of hate crime in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* nationally since January 2011; and if he will make a statement. [R] [86685]

Lynne Featherstone: I have been asked to reply.

Tackling hate crime is an issue the Government take very seriously, and we are committed to doing more to support and protect victims. We are meeting the coalition commitment to improve the recording of such crimes, and working with the police and other partners to encourage more victims to come forward. We are also working with the Government's Independent Advisory Group to develop a new action plan on tackling all forms of hate crime, which will set out the Government's priorities over the coming years.

Data on the level of reports of hate crime since January 2011 are currently not available. From 1 April this year, police forces started formally collecting data on hate crimes to meet the coalition commitment. These data will be published next year as official statistics, giving us a clear picture of local patterns and trends in hate crime and helping the police to target their resources more effectively.

As an interim measure, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) agreed to publish its own data. The latest figures published cover the calendar year 2010, and are broken down by police force area. The information is available on ACPO's True Vision website at:

http://www.report-it.org.uk/hate_crime_data1

Departmental Civil Proceedings

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations that have received funding from his Department have brought legal proceedings against his Department in the last five years; which such organisations were not successful in their actions; and whether his Department *(a)* applied and *(b)* was paid for costs in respect of such cases. [83882]

Robert Neill: All litigation cases against the Department are managed by the Treasury Solicitors Department under a service level agreement.

My Department does not hold a list of all legal proceedings in the last five years. The Department would have to pay the Treasury Solicitors Department to obtain this information.

Obtaining these data, matching the two sets of information, creating a qualitative analysis of success or failure of the cases, and establishing the costs associated with the proceedings, would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold by a wide margin.

Electronic Equipment

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Staffordshire of 15 November 2011, how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* BlackBerry devices were issued to staff in the latest period for which figures are available; what the cost was of such devices; and what the cost was of the 735 such devices issued to staff on 1 May 2010. [82365]

Robert Neill: Currently 340 *(a)* mobile telephones and 552 *(b)* BlackBerry devices are on issue to staff within the Department. The actual cost of devices issued in a particular period could be disaggregated from the overall cost (cost of device, line rental and call charges) of mobile devices only at disproportionate cost. However, I am able to confirm that since 1 May 2010 until 11 November the Department has spent a total of £265,105 with our mobile phone and BlackBerry suppliers.

The number of mobile devices on issue within the Department has notionally increased because residual Government office and regional development agency staff have transferred into central DCLG and have also transferred their BlackBerry devices and mobile phones into the Department.

In a lean business environment the Department recognises the advantages in remote working that BlackBerry devices bring.

To drive down overall costs the Department has signed up to a centrally negotiated telephony agreement. The Department will now have greater certainty of telephony costs over the course of the central framework agreement as well greater flexibility with regard to contract length for each individual connection. The Department also has the opportunity to recoup a portion of total line rental spend from the supplier at the end of each financial year. The Department has used the collective bargaining power of the DCLG group to qualify for savings with suppliers.

Housing

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* housing starts and *(b)* housing completions for (i) social rent, (ii) intermediate rent, (iii) low-cost home ownership, (iv) total affordable housing, (v) open market and (vi) total housing starts took place in each local authority area between (A) April and September and (B) October and March in each year since 1997. [83269]

Grant Shapps *[holding answer 25 November 2011]:* Affordable Housing Supply statistics can be found on my Department's website at the following link. These statistics are only collected annually:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/

House building statistics can be found on the Department's website at the following link. These statistics are collected on a quarterly basis:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding

The Homes and Communities Agency's National Housing Statistics (which exclude some affordable housing that is delivered without Homes and Communities Agency grant funding) can be found on the following link. These statistics are available on a six-monthly basis dating back to 2009-10:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/statistics

The New Homes Bonus allocations also provide a valuable source of information on new housing and empty housing being brought back into use in each local authority area.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in (i) England, (ii) each region and (iii) each local authority area for (A) social rent, (B) intermediate rent and (C) affordable home ownership in (1) each of the last five years and (2) April to September 2011. [83581]

Grant Shapps: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Leeds Central (Hilary Benn) today (PQ 83269).

Housing: Fire Extinguishers

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 143W, on housing: fire extinguishers (1) which US data were relied on extensively in the final regulatory impact assessment published on 13 December 2006; [87118]

(2) with reference to the "Building Research Establishment Report 204505: Effectiveness of sprinkles in residential premises—an evaluation of concealed and recessed pattern sprinkler products", which data from other countries were viewed as not directly applicable or appropriate for the UK situation. [87119]

Andrew Stunell: The details of the analysis carried out by the Building Research Establishment are set out fully in their reports. These are, as set out in my previous answers, readily available on the internet. The benefits

associated with the installation of sprinklers were calculated by estimating of the number of deaths and injuries that might be avoided and of the associated reduction in property loss.

Statistics from the United States were used to derive the estimated reduction in property loss. While the literature review included data from the United States of America, New Zealand and Canada, the researchers decided that they could not be used to robustly derive the estimated reductions in death and injury. Instead, a correlation between fire size and casualties was used.

Owner Occupation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of *(a)* current and *(b)* future rates of owner occupation among different social groups. [87284]

Andrew Stunell: The English Housing survey has published information on owner-occupation among different social groups in England for 2009-10. Information on a variety of social groups can be found in table 1.2 at the following web address:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1937410.xls

We do not forecast rates of owner occupation.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of rates of owner occupation *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in each constituent part of the UK and *(c)* in each region; [87389]

(2) what assessment he has made of likely future trends in owner occupation *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each constituent part of the UK. [87283]

Andrew Stunell: Owner occupation is given as part of the tenure split in the published live tables on dwelling stock which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/stockincludingvacants/livetables/

Live table 101 shows UK figures, with England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Island in tables 104, 105, 106 and 107 respectively. Live table 109 shows regional data for England.

The Department for Communities and Local Government does not forecast trends in owner occupation.

Planning Permission

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision he plans to make in the National Planning Policy Framework to ensure that added weight is given to applications for schemes which will house excluded and vulnerable groups. [87668]

Greg Clark: The draft National Planning Policy Framework asks local planning authorities to plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community. The consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework has closed and we are now considering all the responses.

Public Houses: Co-operatives

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many co-operative pubs the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in his Department with responsibility for community pubs has visited in his official capacity since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [86885]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* Since taking on the role of Minister for Community Pubs, I have visited a number of community pubs in an official capacity. I have accepted invitations to visit two co-operative pubs next year: the George and Dragon at Hudswell, Yorkshire and the Fox and Hounds at Ennerdale, Cumbria.

The Government are supportive of community pubs, including co-operatives, as valuable social hubs. Through the Right to Bid provisions in the Localism Act 2011, we are making it easier for communities to take over and retain these, and other, valuable local assets. The Government also support the work of other organisations, such as the Plunkett Foundation and Pub is the Hub, involved in helping communities to, where appropriate, take over and run their local pubs.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer question 79358, on the supporting people scheme, tabled on 3 November 2011 for answer on 7 November 2011; and if he will make a statement. [87680]

Grant Shapps: Parliamentary question 79358 was answered on 19 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1017W.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer question 83581, on homes, tabled on 23 November 2011 for answer on 25 November 2011. [87682]

Grant Shapps: Question 83581 was answered on 20 December.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when *(a)* each of the three centres in China and *(b)* the centre in Vietnam which provide non-human primates to UK designated user establishments (i) are due next to be reviewed and (ii) were last reviewed. [87110]

Lynne Featherstone: Two centres in China are considered acceptable at present. One is currently under review; one was reviewed in September 2011 and is scheduled for review again in August 2013. The centre

in Vietnam is also considered acceptable, it was last reviewed in October 2011 and the next planned review is in August 2013.

A further centre in China is no longer considered acceptable. No consignments from this source have ever been approved.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the findings were of the most recent reviews of the two Mauritian centres that have supplied animals to the UK for scientific procedures in the last two years. [87111]

Lynne Featherstone: Both Mauritian centres that have supplied animals to the United Kingdom for scientific procedures in the last two years were classified as acceptable. There were no issues identified that required active monitoring by the inspectorate prior to the next review.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how her Department plans to implement EU legislation on reducing the number of animals used in scientific research and replacing them with non-animal methods wherever possible. [87112]

Lynne Featherstone: The European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes provides an opportunity to update current United Kingdom legislation. It will help us promote the development of alternatives through effective legislation, through continuing support to the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) and in Europe through support for the Union Reference Laboratory.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much and what proportion of research funding was allocated to the development of alternatives to the use of non-human primates (NHP); and how much and what proportion of funding was allocated to research using NHPs in the latest period for which figures are available. [87225]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not hold the information requested.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will impose a moratorium on the development and testing of vaccines against malaria, HIV/AIDS and TB on non-human primates; [87226]

(2) if she will impose a moratorium on the use of non-human primates (NHP) for the development of treatments of degenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's due to differences in the brain structures between humans and NHPs. [87227]

Lynne Featherstone: I have no plans to do so.

Research using non-human primates is a small but currently vital part of work to protect and improve human lives. We cannot end such use without halting important areas of medical and scientific research.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licences under the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were granted for research on non-human primates (NHP) that included water deprivation as a permissible motivational tool in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; to which species of NHP such licences related; and for what reasons such licences were granted. [87228]

Lynne Featherstone: Water restriction as a motivational tool was permitted on licences granted in 2009 and 2010 as in the following table:

	Number of licences	*Species*	*Purpose*
2009	3	Macaques	Physiological studies and advancement of biological science.
			Control of disease, ill health and abnormality.
			Advancement of biological or behavioural science.
2010	1	Marmosets/ Macaques	Control of disease, ill health and abnormality .
			Physiological studies and advancement of biological science.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is a formal requirement for all institutions carrying out regulated procedures using non-human primates (NHP) to have in place formal confirmation from the supply centre that the NHP was not weaned at less than six months of age; and what the source is of any such requirement. [87230]

Lynne Featherstone: UK breeding and supplying establishments are expected to comply with the provisions of the "Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of Animals in Designated Breeding and Supplying Establishments". This code of practice states that:

(a) for marmosets:

"Young animals for issue must not be separated from the breeding group until a minimum of six months old, preferable eight months, unless there are good veterinary or husbandry reasons for weaning earlier (e.g. hand-reared triplets). Animals to be used as future breeding stock should not be weaned until a minimum of thirteen months of age."

(b) for macaques:

"Young animals must not be weaned at less than six months of age and 1kg in body weight, unless on veterinary advice e.g. mother is unable to rear baby. It is preferable not to wean before 12 months of age."

The use of non-human primates from an overseas source in regulated procedures is authorised only when the centre in question has demonstrated that animals bred and supplied to licensees in the United Kingdom will have been weaned at more than eight months of age except where there is specific justification such as rare cases where infants have been either abandoned or orphaned.

Those seeking to acquire non-human primates from a non-designated establishment are required through a condition on their project licence or certificate to forward to the Home Office information pertaining to the life history of the animals which currently includes details of the youngest weaning age in the batch.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of non-human primates authorised to be used in

regulated procedures in the last 12 months were weaned at under six months of age because they were abandoned or orphaned. [87231]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not hold the information requested.

Asylum

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers whose cases *(a)* are pending and *(b)* failed are accommodated in (i) Newport East and (ii) other dispersal areas; and what proportion of such asylum seekers are single men. [83953]

Damian Green *[holding answer 30 November 2011]:* The current number of work in progress asylum cases in the categories specified is as follows:

	(a) Pending	*Proportion of single males[1] (percentage)*	*(b) Failed*	*Proportion of single males[1] (percentage)*
(i) Newport East[2,3,4]	86	43	24	21
(ii) Other dispersal areas[2,3,4]	11,354	21	9,692	18

[1] Gender unknown cases not counted as male.
[2] All figures quoted are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks.
[3] Data relate to S4/S95 accommodated/dispersed cases only.
[4] Postcodes are based on the applicants last known address.

Asylum: Reading West

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy cases concern asylum seekers resident in Reading West constituency; and how many of these are not *(a)* awaiting prosecution, *(b)* awaiting removal and *(c)* subject to ongoing litigation. [87312]

Damian Green: A total of 35 legacy asylum seekers are resident in Reading West. Of these 10 do not meet the criteria under *(a)*, *(b)* or *(c)* above. The data are sourced from a local management team and should be treated as provisional.

Babar Ahmad

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the case of Babar Ahmad; and if she will make a statement. [87393]

Damian Green: I have received a number of letters from Members of Parliament on behalf of constituents who have written to them about the case of Babar Ahmad. Mr Ahmad's extradition is stayed while his case is considered by the European Court of Human Rights.

Crime Prevention: Expenditure

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was provided to *(a)* each local authority and *(b)* each individual non-statutory sector representative as part of the Communities Against Guns, Gangs and Knives Fund in 2010-11. [80514]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 15 November 2011]:* The Communities Against Guns, Gangs, and Knives Fund is not awarded to local authorities. It is a fund that provides £4 million over two years, in grants of up to £10,000 a year, to voluntary and community sector organisations.

A list of these organisations, along with information on which local authority areas they will be working in and their allocated funding for 2010-11, can be found on the grant administrator's website:

http://www.grantsadmin.co.uk/documents/CAGGKY11to12ProjectList.pdf

Departmental Advertising Campaigns

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what public information advertising campaigns her Department ran in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2011-12; and what the cost was of each campaign. [87383]

Damian Green: The following table outlines Home Office and its agencies spend on public information advertising campaigns in 2008-09 and 2009-10, broken down by campaign area. All were carried out via the Central Office of Information. Final spend figures for 2011-12 cannot be provided at this point as the financial year is not yet complete.

	Campaign	*Cost (£)*
2008-09	Knife crime	917,764
	Acquisitive Crime Reduction—Burglary	918,170
	Alcohol Harm Reduction	2,790,203
	Community Safety	2,246,390
	Drugs (including FRANK campaign)	717,397
	Human Trafficking	8,928
	Immigration—Points Based System	2,453,007
	IPS Communications[1]	21,500
2009-10	Violence against women and girls	1,828,532
	Human Trafficking	28,974
	Alcohol Harm Reduction	1,716,361
	Drugs (including FRANK campaign)	442,130
	Youth crime	129,526
	Knife crime	854,554
	Acquisitive Crime Reduction	2,740,798
	Community Safety	3,701,897
	Prostitution	22,006
	Vetting and barring	167,137
2011-12	Drugs (FRANK campaign)	[2]—
	Violence against women and girls	[2]—

[1] IPS Communications costs (and its predecessor the UK Passport Authority) were related to informing the public of passport fee increases and encouraging the public to get the applications in early to help distribute passport demand more evenly throughout the year.
[2] Final figures not yet available.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [87000]

Damian Green: The requested information cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Home Office does not directly contract for food supplies but procures catering services through wider facilities management or operating service contracts. Therefore it will not be possible to separate cost of food from catering services without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were working in her Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87342]

Damian Green: Information on the number of employees working in the Home Office is published on a regular basis by the Office for National Statistics, as "paid civil servants".

This management information is produced and collated at the end of each month and, as such, figures are not yet available for 8 December 2011. The latest period for which information is available is as at 30 November 2011.

I can confirm the following:

(a) The Home Department employed 31,513 paid civil servants on 11 May 2010.

(b) The Home Department employed 26,642 paid civil servants on 30 November 2011.

Parliamentary Written Questions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parliamentary questions for written answer on a named day by her Department were answered *(a)* on time, *(b)* five days late, *(c)* 10 days late, *(d)* 20 days late and *(e)* over 30 days late in each month since May 2010. [79541]

Damian Green: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Month	*Named day PQs answered on time*	*5 to 9 days late*	*10 to 19 days late*	*20 to 30 days late*	*Over 30 days late*
June 2010	44	17	5	2	1
July 2010	34	18	5	0	0
September 2010	19	12	6	2	2
October 2010	28	15	4	2	1
November 2010	33	18	13	5	2
December 2010	34	6	7	3	2
January 2011	27	5	3	1	0
February 2011	32	7	4	0	0
March 2011	41	16	7	0	2
April 2011	27	0	1	0	0
May 2011	21	7	2	0	1
June 2011	32	8	8	0	3
July 2011	14	11	6	2	13
September 2011	35	1	10	4	2
October 2011	26	4	1	0	0
November 2011	54	6	4	0	0

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

DNA

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA samples of people from each ethnic group were retained by the police in respect of people arrested but not subsequently convicted of any crime in the latest period for which figures are available. [87170]

James Brokenshire: This information is not held centrally.

Federation of Student Islamic Societies

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what correspondence her Department has had with the Federation of Student Islamic Societies on civil service recruitment events since 1 June 2011. [77954]

James Brokenshire: I am not aware of any correspondence being sent to the Federation of Student Islamic Societies on civil service recruitment events since 1 June 2011.

Firearms: Licensing

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has any plans to allow police forces to charge fees for firearms licences that reflect the cost of administering them. [87204]

Nick Herbert: The Government are currently considering information submitted by the police on the cost of issuing firearms certificates.

Human Trafficking

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings she has had with the Scottish Government to discuss a UK-wide approach to tackling *(a)* human trafficking and *(b)* child trafficking since May 2010. [86932]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has not had meetings with the Scottish Government to discuss a UK-wide approach to tackling human trafficking, including child trafficking.

I chair the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking, of which the Scottish Government are a standing member.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of illegal immigrants who may have entered the UK via the Eurostar route from Brussels via Lille during the six months ending November 2011; and if she will make a statement. [86555]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency closely monitors all trains from Lille at St Pancras, Ebbsfleet and Ashford and carries out more detailed checks where it is thought that passengers are attempting to evade controls. A significant number of passengers are also removed from the train at Lille in co-operation with Eurostar and the French authorities. As a result of these actions, around 300 passengers have been stopped at Lille and St Pancras between January to November 2011.

These data are based on management information and as such have not been quality assured. They are provisional and subject to change.

Immigration Controls

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people who entered the UK at ports operating the pilot scheme of reduced checks at border control points during the pilot scheme. [81095]

Damian Green: There were 20.2 million passenger arrivals to the United Kingdom during the first quarter (January to March) of 2011 of which 2.4 million were non-EEA nationals, 11.2 million were British citizens and 6.5 million were from other EEA countries and Switzerland. These figures are numbers of journeys and include passengers in transit who do not pass through immigration controls.

Further information relating to the second quarter (April to June) of 2011 was published on 24 November 2011 in the Home Office Science publication, "Immigration Statistics July to September 2011" and the third quarter will be published on 23 February 2012. These data will be available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/

Immigration Controls: Airports

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether passport controls were relaxed at *(a)* Teesport and *(b)* Teesside airport during the summer of 2011. [80764]

Damian Green: Risk-based controls under the level 2 pilot were not used at *(a)* Teesport and *(b)* Durham Tees Valley (Teesside) airport.

Immigration: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she has held discussions with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Scotland, *(b)* Ministers in the Scottish Government and *(c)* representatives of Scottish police forces on the border access checks pilot introduced in summer 2011; and whether in each case those communications were (i) written and (ii) oral. [80506]

Damian Green *[holding answer 14 November 2011]:* The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has not had any discussions or communicated written or orally with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Scotland, *(b)* Ministers in the Scottish Government and *(c)* representatives of Scottish police forces regarding the border access checks pilot introduced in summer 2011.

National Policing Improvement Agency: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding the National Policing Improvement Agency will receive in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if she will make a statement. [87107]

Nick Herbert: The NPIA's resource and capital funding in 2010-11 and 2011-12 is:

£ million

	Resource DEL[1]	*Capital DEL*
2010-11	367.9	57.6
2011-12	355.8	44.2

[1] DEL—Departmental Expenditure Limit

National Policing Improvement Agency: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by the National Policing Improvement Agency in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if she will make a statement. [87106]

Nick Herbert: The National Policing Improvement Agency had 1,788 full-time equivalent staff as at 31 March 2011 and 1,583 full-time equivalent staff as at 30 November 2011.

Passports: Gender

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to review how gender is represented in passports; and if she will make a statement. [87357]

Damian Green: "Advancing Transgender Equality—A Plan for Action" published by Home Office on 8 December 2011 set out our commitment to review how gender identification is represented in passport application forms and passports. We are engaging with international partners on the security and personal safety implications of gender displayed in the passport. This is part of the normal process of working with our partners to ensure that the British passport holder is able to travel freely, securely and without hindrance. Any changes to the UK passport would need to satisfy our rigorous security requirements. We will contact key stakeholders in the UK in the light of the outcome of our discussions with other countries and the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Police: Information

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on research commissioned by police forces in England and Wales on the effectiveness of police information notices. [87506]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not hold any information on research commissioned by police forces in England and Wales on the effectiveness of police information notices.

As part of our cross-departmental strategy on ending all types of violence against women and girls (Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls Action plan, published on 8 March 2011), which includes measures to tackle stalking, the Home Office launched a consultation in November 2011 which seeks views on how we can protect victims of stalking more effectively, including the use of police information notices.

Police: Recruitment

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for future police recruitment. [81072]

Nick Herbert: Police forces in England and Wales are responsible for managing their recruitment and selection processes according to local needs and circumstances, in line with national guidance.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding the Serious Organised Crime Agency will receive in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if she will make a statement. [87105]

Nick Herbert: The Serious Organised Crime Agency received £462,839 million from the Home Office in 2010-11, and is expected to receive £447,894 million in 2011-12.

SMU 100 Laser Device

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she expects trials of the SMU 100 laser device by UK police forces to be held; and when those trials will be complete; [87143]

(2) on what basis she plans to select the police forces that will trial the SMU 100 laser device; and how the results of those trials will be reported to Parliament; [87144]

(3) whether she plans to report the findings of trials on the use of the SMU 100 laser device to the Home Affairs Committee. [87145]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* The Home Office has no plans to trial the SMU 100 laser device for use by the police service.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the expenditure incurred by her Department on salaries for full-time investigation staff allocated to the tackling tobacco smuggling strategy for staff *(a)* engaged in detection, *(b)* engaged in investigations, *(c)* working on intelligence matters and *(d)* in total in 2009-10. [83504]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency deployed an estimated 1,504 full-time equivalent staff to the tobacco strategy in 2009-10, assigned to detection and intelligence duties. Further and more detailed information is not available as the agency's expenditure records are not broken down by specific functions and activities.

Investigation and the provision of legal advice in relation to tobacco smuggling remained the responsibility of HM Revenue and Customs.

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in the UK Border Agency were assigned to implementing the tackling tobacco smuggling strategy in 2009-10; and how many such staff were engaged in *(a)* detection, *(b)* intelligence gathering and analysis, *(c)* investigations and *(d)* the provision of legal advice. [83505]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency deployed an estimated 1,504 full-time equivalent staff to the tobacco strategy in 2009-10, assigned to detection and intelligence duties. Further and more detailed information on expenditure is not available. Investigation and the provision of legal advice in relation to tobacco smuggling remained the responsibility of HM Revenue and Customs.

Stalking: Harassment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she is taking to encourage victims of stalking and harassment to respond to her Department's consultation on stalking; [87549]

(2) what meetings are planned with victims of stalking and harassment as part of her Department's consultation on stalking; [87550]

(3) whether her Department plans to consult with perpetrators of stalking as part of its consultation on stalking. [87551]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office launched a consultation on 14 November 2011 to seek views on how to protect victims of stalking more effectively. This

is a public consultation, as well as specifically seeking the views of key partners and directly affected parties, and as such responses from victims and perpetrators of stalking will be welcomed. The consultation closes on 5 February.

The Home Office ran a series of regional road shows on stalking in November and December in Manchester, Durham, London and Avon and Somerset, to explore how partners can work together to better understand and tackle this important issue. Attendees included victims groups, individual victims and their relatives, as well as the police and Crown Prosecution Service. The events included interactive workshops on existing legislation and guidance, and discussions with experts on the effectiveness of current methods to tackle stalking and harassment. The road shows also gathered views to feed into the stalking consultation.

JUSTICE

Brain: Injuries

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has undertaken on the effects on offending of acquired brain injury in the last 18 months. [87360]

Mr Blunt: No research has been undertaken by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) on the effects on offending of acquired brain injury in the last 18 months.

Chief Coroner

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice by what date he expects to appoint the chief coroner. [87471]

Mr Djanogly: The Lord Chief Justice is responsible for appointing the chief coroner under schedule 8 to the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. We are continuing to discuss the matter, including timescales, with the Lord Chief Justice.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his ministerial colleagues and *(b)* the senior judiciary on the appointment of a chief coroner. [87686]

Mr Djanogly: The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), and I have discussed the appointment of a chief coroner with the Lord Chief Justice in recent weeks. We have not, however, had any discussions with ministerial colleagues on this issue.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he expects *(a)* to announce the appointment of a chief coroner and *(b)* the chief coroner to take up his or her post; [87688]

(2) when he plans to announce who will be appointed as a chief coroner. [87764]

Mr Djanogly: The Lord Chief Justice is responsible for appointing the chief coroner under schedule 8 to the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. We are continuing to discuss this matter, including timescales, with the Lord Chief Justice.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to meet bereavement organisations to discuss the appointment of a chief coroner; and when such meetings will take place. [87690]

Mr Djanogly: Ministry of Justice officials plan to meet bereavement organisations in the new year to discuss implementation of the coroner reforms in the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. However, under schedule 8 to the Act, the appointment of the chief coroner is a matter for the Lord Chief Justice, following consultation with the Lord Chancellor.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he proposes that the chief coroner will be a High Court judge. [87767]

Mr Djanogly: Under Schedule 8 to the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 the chief coroner must be either a High Court judge or a Circuit judge. Appointment of the chief coroner is, however, a matter for the Lord Chief Justice, following consultation with the Lord Chancellor.

Civil Justice Council

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice under what categories of expenditure he expects the Civil Justice Council to make savings in 2011-12 relative to its budget in 2010-11. [87462]

Mr Djanogly: The Civil Justice Council has reduced its staff costs by moving to a joint secretariat with the Family Justice Council. Overall, this has resulted in two fewer posts, relative to 2010-11. The Civil Justice Council has reduced its non-staff running costs by 23% in 2011-12 when compared with 2010-11.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many awards the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority has made showing the number of awards in bands of £25,000. [87598]

Mr Djanogly: Figures covering cases resolved in the period 14 June 2010 to 14 December 2011 are shown in the following table:

Awards paid

Band	*Number*
£0 to £25,000	48,338
£25,001 to £50,000	577
£50,001 to £75,000	197
£75,001 to £100,000	132
£100,001 to £125,000	84
£125,001 to £150,000	59
£150,001 to £175,000	36
£175,001 to £200,000	22
£200,001 to £225,000	24
£225,001 to £250,000	18
£250,001 to £275,000	15
£275,001 to £300,000	19
£300,001 to £325,000	9
£325,001 to £350,000	15
£350,001 to £375,000	14
£375,001 to £400,000	6

Awards paid	
Band	*Number*
£400,001 to £425,000	8
£425,001 to £450,000	5
£450,001 to £475,000	4
£475,001 to £500,000	60

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [86993]

Mr Djanogly: The amount spent by the Department on food purchased through its food and catering services during 2010-11 is given in the following table. From 2010, the Department has restricted catering for internal and external meetings, including in our arm's-length bodies.

The following restrictions apply to all departmental staff:

No lunches, tea or coffees can be ordered for any internal meeting.

For external meetings, catering procurement requires director-level sign-off and are only allowed in exceptional circumstances.

2010-11	
	£000
Ministry of Justice HQ[1]	420
Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service[2]	5,376
National Offender Management Service[3]	60,957
Office for the Public Guardian	2
Total	66,755

[1] MOJ HQ—Catering costs for external meetings (i.e. including visitors/ attendees external to the organisation) and staff training courses.
[2] HMCTS—In addition to catering costs for external meetings and staff training courses, the figures also include the cost of catering for judiciary and jurors.
[3] NOMS– The cost of food is in respect of public sector prisons, and almost entirely relates to the cost of providing food to the prison population in England and Wales. It does not include any associated costs such as contracted catering services, staff and prisoner labour and training costs, the purchase of kitchen and servery facilities, utilities and other overheads. These figures also include a minor element for the cost of external meetings and staff training courses.

Departmental Manpower

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time equivalent staff were employed *(a)* in the Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council, *(b)* as an Assessor for Compensation for Miscarriages of Justice, *(c)* on the Civil Justice Council, *(d)* on the Civil Procedure Rule Committee, *(e)* on the Criminal Cases Review Commission, *(f)* on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, *(g)* on the Criminal Procedure Rule Committee, *(h)* on the Crown Court Rule Committee, *(i)* on the Family Justice Council, *(j)* on the Family Procedure Rule Committee, *(k)* in the HM Inspectorate of Prisons, *(l)* in the HM Inspectorate of Probation, *(m)* on the Insolvency Rules Committee, *(n)* on the Judicial Appointments Commission, *(o)* as Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman, *(p)* in the Judicial Office, *(q)* on the Law Commission, (r) on the Legal Services Board, *(s)* on the Legal Services Commission, *(t)* in the National Offender Management Service, *(u)* in the Probation Service, *(v)* in the Court Funds Office, *(w)* in the Office of the Information Commissioner, *(x)* in the Office for Judicial Complaints, *(y)* as Legal Ombudsman, *(z)* in the Office of the Public Guardian, (aa) as an Official Solicitor and Public Trustee, (ab) on the Parole Board, (ac) as a Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, (ad) on the Sentencing Council, (ae) on the Tribunal procedure Committee, (af) as a Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses and (ag) on the Youth Justice Board on (i) 1 May 2010 and (ii) 1 November 2011. [82518]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The following table provides details of the numbers of full-time equivalent staff employed within the requested organisations:

	Civil servants		*Public servants*	
	30 April 2010	*31 August 2011*	*30 April 2010*	*31 August 2011*
Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council	9.00	7.80	—	—
Assessor for Compensation for Miscarriages of Justice	—	—	n/a	0
Civil Justice Council	4.00	7.00	n/a	0
Civil Procedure Rule Committee	—	—	n/a	0
Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC)	—	—	[1]n/a	66.24
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA)	[2]114.88	363.82	—	—
Criminal Procedure Rule Committee	—	—	n/a	0
Crown Court Rule Committee	—	—	n/a	0
Family Justice Council	4.00	1.00	—	—
Family Rule Procedure Committee	—	—	n/a	0
HM Inspectorate of Prisons	35.42	36.13	—	—
HM Inspectorate of Probation	41.82	34.92	—	—
Insolvency Rules Committee	—	—	n/a	0
Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC)	—	—	[3]n/a	75.00
Judicial Appointments and Conduct Ombudsman	9.36	8.38	—	—
Judicial Office	124.66	[4]139.20	—	—
Law Commission	50.10	40.31	—	—
Legal Services Board (LSB)	—	—	[5]n/a	32.70
Legal Services Commission (LSC)	—	—	[6]n/a	1,414.60
National Offender Management Service (NOMS)	49,144.92	[7]45,719.53	—	—
Probation Service (35 Trusts)	—	—	[8]n/a	18,156.00
Court Funds Office	129.18	86.29	—	—
Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC)	—	—	[9]n/a	322.79
Office for Judicial Complaints	15.00	14.80	—	—
Legal Ombudsman	—	—	[10]6.00	[10]8.00
Office of the Public Guardian (OPG)	395.49	[11]436.07	—	—
Official Solicitor and Public Trustee	113.89	125.67	—	—
Parole Board	—	—	[12]n/a	93.00

	Civil servants		Public servants	
	30 April 2010	31 August 2011	30 April 2010	31 August 2011
Prisons and Probation Ombudsman	104.54	95.29	—	—
Sentencing Council	10.78	14.83	—	—
Tribunal Procedure Committee	—	—	n/a	0
Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses	—	—	n/a	0
Youth Justice Board (YJB)	—	—	[13]N/A	216.86

n/a = information for this date is not available because it is not held centrally. Where possible alternative data are provided as a footnote.
[1] CCRC data are available for 31 March 2010. Total staff was 81.
[2] For 30 April 2010 the Ministry holds only the numbers of CICA staff employed within the Ministry. The data for 31 August 2011 include CICA staff within the Scottish Government. However, on 31 March 2010, the total number of CICA staff (including those within the Scottish Government was 370).
[3] JAC data are available for 31 March 2010. Total staff was 98.
[4] The increase in Judicial Office staff was the result of a restructure exercise, where staff from MOJ HQ assigned to Judicial Office duties were transferred to the Judicial Office.
[5] LSB data are available for 30 June 2010. Total staff was 32.6.
[6] LSC data are available for 30 June 2010. Total staff was 1,437.9.
[7] The change in staff numbers in NOMS also reflects a transfer of 1,200 NOMS HQ staff to MOJ HQ.
[8] Probation Service data are available for 31 March 2010. Total staff was 20,440.
[9] OIC data are available for 31 March 2010. Total staff was 313.
[10] Includes chief ombudsman. Two ombudsman were recruited to vacancies in June 2010.
[11] The OPG office is being relocated to Birmingham and in the transition period covering the move there is an overlap where staff have been recruited in Birmingham before staff in London are released.
[12] Parole Board data are available for 31 March 2010. Total staff was 95.
[13] YJB data are available for 31 March 2010. Total staff was 272.
Note:
Information is available for executive non-departmental public bodies (CCRC, CICA, JAC, LSC, LSB, Parole Board and YJB) as at 30 June 2010 and at 31 March 2011 as part of the transparency agenda and can be accessed at: http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/transparency-data/senior-civil-service-salaries-and-organograms.htm

Parliamentary Written Questions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of questions for ordinary written answer received a substantive response within *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30 and *(d)* more than 30 sitting days in the 2010-12 session to date. [85932]

Mr Djanogly: In the current session from May 2010 to 9 December 2011 the Ministry of Justice answered 4,190 ordinary written questions. Of those, 4,158 (99.24%) were answered within 10 sitting days, 26 (0.62%) within 20 sitting days, five (0.12%) within 30 sitting days and one (0.02%) after more than 30 sitting days.

These figures have been drawn from MOJ's PQ database, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with information relating to written parliamentary question performance on a sessional basis and will provide full information to the Committee at the end of the Session. Statistics relating to Government Departments' performance for the 2009-10 parliamentary Session were previously provided to the Committee and are available on the Parliament website.

Domestic Violence: Crime Prevention

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many restraining orders have been made under section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 following *(a)* sentence and *(b)* acquittal for any offence in each of the last five years; [87433]

(2) in how many cases a restraining order under section 12 of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004 has been made following an application by a victim since September 2009. [87519]

Mr Blunt: On 30 September 2009, section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 amended section 5 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 to allow a restraining order to be granted following conviction for any offence and even where a defendant is acquitted.

The number of restraining orders issued under sections 5 (following conviction) and 5A (following acquittal) of the Protection from Harassment Act from 2006 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table. Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database does not include all the details of the circumstances associated with each case, beyond the description provided in the statute under which proceedings are brought. It is therefore not possible to separately identify those restraining orders issued as a result of an application by a victim from those issued under other circumstances.

Restraining orders issued at all courts in England and Wales under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, in each year between 2006 and 2010

Disposal	2006	2007	2008[1]	2009	2010
Restraining order issued under:					
Section 5 (issued following conviction)[2]	2,722	2,631	3,081	5,073	10,094
Section 5A (issued following acquittal)[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	647

n/a = Not applicable
[1] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
[2] On 30 September 2009, section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 came into force. This provision amended section 5 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. This amendment enables the court to impose a restraining order in a much wider range of circumstances than previously. Under these rules, restraining orders can be granted following conviction for any offence.
[3] On 30 September 2009, section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 came into force. This added an additional provision (section 5A), which allows a court to impose a restraining order on acquittal if it considers it necessary to protect a person from harassment by the defendant.
Notes:
1. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Employment Tribunal Service

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of *(a)* an unpaid employment tribunal award and *(b)* an unpaid ACAS settlement have been passed to High Court enforcement officers under the ACAS and Employment Tribunal Fast Track enforcement mechanism since its introduction; and in how many such cases the unpaid award or settlement was (i) fully, (ii) partially and (iii) not recovered. [86226]

Mr Djanogly: 2,072 unpaid employment tribunal awards and 210 unpaid ACAS settlements have been passed to High Court enforcement officers under the ACAS and Employment Tribunal Fast Track since its commencement on 6 April 2010.

The fast track is operated by the High Court Enforcement Officers Association and as such it is responsible for collation of performance data. The data requested are not segregated from other types of High Court enforcement and will require a specific collection exercise, which will be concluded by 31 January 2012. Thereafter I will write to you with the details.

Inquiries Act 2005

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the restriction order made by the Chairman of the Leveson Inquiry on 28 November 2011, if he will assess the effectiveness of the operation of section 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005. [85594]

Mr Djanogly: I have noted Lord Justice Leveson's ruling of 28 November 2011, but there are no plans to assess the effectiveness of section 19 of the Inquiries Act 2005. The Ministry of Justice conducted post-legislative scrutiny of the Inquiries Act 2005 in 2010 and the memorandum submitted to the Justice Select Committee in October 2010 concluded that the measures introduced by the Inquiries Act 2005 had achieved the objectives of the legislation and the Justice Select Committee did not request full post-legislative scrutiny of the Act.

Police: Hearing Impairment

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to promote deaf awareness among police officers and prison staff. [86934]

Mr Djanogly: As a Department, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is working to embed equality and diversity as a part of everyday business. As an employer the MOJ is committed to ensuring that our policies are fair and accessible to all, and as a provider of services, that this is done so in a way that meets the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act, 2010).

Police officers are not the responsibility of the MOJ. The Home Office has advised that the Initial Police Learning Programme addresses the needs of individuals who have communication difficulties. Further training available includes guidance and information for officers dealing with people who are hearing impaired and who have hearing disabilities.

In respect of prison staff, there is not a separate specific policy on deaf awareness; rather this is encompassed in wider considerations on disabilities more generally. These include Prison Service and agency instructions on ensuring equality of treatment for staff and on our duties as a public authority. We have also launched a disability staff support network and there is an Equalities Group intranet site containing a suite of information and guidance around equality and diversity that can be accessed by managers and staff in NOMS HQ and public sector prisons.

Through local monitoring, prison establishments and HQ groups must determine which interventions or adjustments are best suited to meet their particular needs in respect of staff and prisoners with disabilities. An example of this can be found at HMP Whatton, where there are staff who have been fully trained in British Sign Language (BSL) and so are able to assist prisoners who are deaf and able to sign.

Police: Information

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research has been commissioned by his Department on the effectiveness of police information notices. [87520]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has not commissioned any research on this, as it is a matter for the Home Office.

Postcodes

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department uses postcodes for purposes other than the postage of mail. [84176]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Aside from postage purposes, the Ministry of Justice uses postcodes operationally to help identify suppliers on its finance systems. A thorough investigation into the uses of postcodes throughout the organisation would incur disproportionate costs, though it is possible that some teams within the organisation would also use them for similar, statistical or demographic purposes.

Prisons: Finance

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much he had budgeted for the adult prison estate at the start of 2011-12; and what the revised estimate was of expenditure in 2011-12 on 1 December 2011. [87366]

Mr Blunt: The resource budget allocations for the adult prison estate for private and public prisons in England and Wales at the start of April 2011 was £1,835.4 million. The revised estimated expenditure in December 2011 is £1,842.7 million.

Notes:

1. Establishments are categorised by their main role and where they have more than one role, they are placed in the category that represents the primary or dominant function of the prison. The overall establishment budgets represents all prisons where the majority use was as adult prison.

2. Allocated budgets may be subject to amendment during the financial year.

Translation Services

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum delay was in the provision of interpreters and translators in (i) courts and (ii) tribunals in November (A) 2010 and (B) 2011; [87361]

(2) how much his Department spent on the provision of language services in the 12 months before those services were outsourced; [87466]

(3) how many interpreters and translators were used by HM Courts and Tribunals Service in each month since October 2010; [87539]

(4) what representations he has received from professional bodies representing interpreters and translators on the transfer to Accredited Language Services of his Department's interpretation services; [87540]

(5) how many organisations tendered for his Department's interpretation service contract that was awarded to Accredited Language Services. [87541]

Mr Blunt: The information is as follows.

(1) Information on delay in the provision of language services is not collected. Under our new contract for language services we will in future be able to monitor whether assignments are delivered on time.

(2) The latest figure available is for the 2010-11 financial year, when costs were estimated to be in the region of £25.8 million.

(3) Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service does not record the number of interpreters and translators used in each month.

(4) The Ministry sought and received a range of views, both from individual interpreters and their various representative groups. We have also conducted meetings with a range of those groups, and invited stakeholders to submit their views directly to the project through a dedicated email address. My officials sought views on the specific proposals as they had emerged from the competitive dialogue process, which was undertaken between 30 March 2011 and 4 May 2011. We received a wide range of views in response. All of the responses received were carefully considered by the project team, and formed part of the advice submitted to me when making the decision whether to move to the Framework Agreement. The Ministry continues to receive, consider and respond to correspondence from interested parties and groups.

(5) 126 companies submitted an expression of interest. Of those, 67 submitted a completed pre-qualification questionnaire. 12 were invited to dialogue, six were invited to submit Outline Solutions, three were invited to submit detailed solutions and one (Applied Language Solutions) was invited to submit a final tender.

Witnesses

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many witnesses were called to give evidence in *(a)* magistrates courts and *(b)* Crown courts in each year from 1997 to 2010. [87699]

Mr Djanogly: Information about the total number of witnesses called to give evidence in the magistrates courts and Crown court is not held centrally, as it is not recorded by court staff electronically as part of their routine daily administrative duties.

HEALTH

Air Pollution

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the monetary value of benefits to public health for every pound spent on improving air quality. [81182]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member for Brent North (Barry Gardiner) to the answer I gave him on 21 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 188W.

Alcoholic Drinks: Ex-servicemen

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the levels of alcohol abuse amongst military veterans. [87108]

Mr Simon Burns: The requested information is not collected centrally. However, according to Dr Nicola Fear, Dr Dan Wood and Professor Simon Wessely in their 2009 report 'Health and Social Outcomes and Health Experiences of UK Military Veterans' (Academic Centre for Defence Mental Health/The King's Centre for Military Health Research November 2009), alcohol problems feature among the most common mental health problems for ex-service personnel, along with depression and anxiety disorders. For serving and ex-service personnel, the prevalence of hazardous drinking is far higher than in the general population.

The Department is doing much to improve mental health outcomes for veterans, following the publication of my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison)'s report 'Fighting Fit' in October 2010. The Department contributed £7.2 million to the implementation of the recommendations coming out of this report. One of the key features of the work completed to date is the launch of integrated veterans' mental health services in each of the 10 existing strategic health authority areas. These have a holistic focus on mental health, and contributing factors, including alcohol and substance abuse. They are up and running in the north and south-west, and roll-out will continue to the end of the current financial year.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times stomach pumping was used in NHS hospitals for the treatment of excessive alcohol consumption since 1 January 2011; what proportion of patients so treated were under the age of 18; and how these figures compare to the equivalent time period in 2010. [87120]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Alcoholic Drinks: Obesity

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females under the age of 18 have been treated for (i) alcohol-induced and (ii) obesity-induced illness in NHS hospitals (A) since 1 January 2011 and (B) in the equivalent period in 2010. [87121]

Anne Milton: Provisional figures show that the estimated number of males under the age of 18 that have been treated for alcohol-induced illness in national health service hospitals since 1 January 2011 was 3,579 and in the equivalent period in 2010 (January 2010 - August 2010) was 3,859.

The estimated number of females under the age of 18 that have been treated for alcohol-induced illness in national health service hospitals since 1 January 2011 is 4,393 and in the equivalent period in 2010 (January 2010 - August 2010) was 4,746.

The estimated number of males under the age of 18 that have been treated for obesity-induced illness in national health service hospitals since 1 January 2001 is 193 and in the equivalent period in 2010 (January 2010 - August 2010) was 208.

The estimated number of females under the age of 18 that have been treated for obesity-induced illness in national health service hospitals since 1 January 2011 is 228 and in the equivalent period in 2010 (January 2010 - August 2010) was 258.

This is shown in the following table. The data in the table should not be described as a count of people, as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.

Count of alcohol-related admissions[1] and admissions[2] with a primary diagnosis[3] of Obesity, for people aged Under 18[4], by gender, for the period January 2010—August 2010 and January 2011—August 2011[5] (Data from April-August 2011 are provisional)[6]—Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	January-March 2010	*April-August 2010*	*Total*	*January-March 2011*	*April-August 2011 (Provisional)*	*Total*
Alcohol attributable fractions:						
Male	1,350	2,509	3,859	1,330	2,250	3,579
Female	1,766	2,980	4,746	1,710	2,683	4,393
Obesity:						
Male	77	131	208	72	121	193
Female	111	147	258	88	140	228

[1] Alcohol-related admissions.
The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO), which uses 48 indicators for alcohol-related illnesses, determining the proportion of a wide range of diseases and injuries that can be partly attributed to alcohol as well as those that are, by definition, wholly attributable to alcohol. Further information on these proportions can be found at:
http://www.nwph.net/nwpho/publications/AlcoholAttributableFractions.pdf
The application of the NWPHO methodology has recently been updated and is now available directly from Hospital Episode Statistics. As such, information about episodes estimated to be alcohol related may be slightly different from previously published data.
[2] Finished admission episodes.
A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
[3] Primary diagnosis
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
ICD-10 codes used: E66: Obesity
[4] Age
The attributable fractions are not applicable to children under 16. Therefore figures for this age group relate only to wholly-attributable admissions, where the attributable fraction is one.
[5] Provisional data:
The data are provisional and may be incomplete or contain errors for which no adjustments have yet been made. Counts produced from provisional data are likely to be lower than those generated for the same period in the final dataset. This shortfall will be most pronounced in the final month of the latest period, ie November from the (month nine) April to November extract. It is also probable that clinical data are not complete, which may in particular affect the last two months of any given period. There may also be errors due to coding inconsistencies that have not yet been investigated and corrected.
[6] Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.
Note:
Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Benzodiazepines

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many products containing benzodiazepines are licensed for use; what their names are; how many companies hold licences for the manufacture or distribution of each product; and how many of those licences were issued in each of the last three years. [87387]

Mr Simon Burns: There are currently 87 products authorised in the United Kingdom containing benzodiazepines. There are 25 different companies authorised to manufacture and distribute them. Details are provided in the following table for each benzodiazepine. No new marketing authorisations for benzodiazepines have been issued in the last three years.

Drug substance	*Authorisation holder company*	*Licensed product name*
Alprazolam	Pharmacia Limited	Xanax tablets 250 micrograms
Alprazolam	Pharmacia Limited	Xanax tablets 500 micrograms
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Athlone Laboratories Limited	Chlordiaz Epoxide 5mg capsules
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Athlone Laboratories Limited	Chlordiazepoxide 10mg capsules
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Ranbaxy Ireland Limited	Chlordiazepoxide capsules BP 10mg
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Dr Reddy's Laboratories (UK) Limited	Chlordiazepoxide 5mg film-coated tablets
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Dr Reddy's Laboratories (UK) Limited	Chlordiazepoxide 10mg film-coated tablets
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Dr Reddy's Laboratories (UK) Limited	Chlordiazepoxide 10mg capsules
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Dr Reddy's Laboratories (UK) Limited	Chlordiazepoxide 5mg capsules
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Meda Pharmaceuticals Limited	Librium 5mg capsules
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Meda Pharmaceuticals Limited	Librium 10mg capsules
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Metwest Pharmaceuticals Limited	Chlordiazepoxide 5mg capsules
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Metwest Pharmaceuticals Limited	Chlordiazepoxide 10mg capsules
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Crescent Pharma Limited	Chlordiazepoxide capsules BP 5mg
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Crescent Pharma Limited	Chlordiazepoxide capsules BP 10mg
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Chelonia Healthcare Limited	Chlordiazepoxide 5mg capsules
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Chelonia Healthcare Limited	Chlordiazepoxide capsules 10mg
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Chelonia Healthcare Limited	Tropium tablets 5mg
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Chelonia Healthcare Limited	Tropium tablets 10mg
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Genethics (UK) Limited	Chlordiazepoxide 5mg tablets
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	Genethics (UK) Limited	Chlordiazepoxide 10mg tablets
Clobazam	Aventis Pharma Limited	Frisium tablets 10mg
Clobazam	Auden Mckenzie Limited	Clobazam 10mg tablets
Diazepam	Actavis UK Limited	Diazepam tablets BP 2mg
Diazepam	Actavis UK Limited	Diazepam tablets BP 5mg
Diazepam	Actavis UK Limited	Diazepam tablets BP 10mg
Diazepam	Actavis UK Limited	Diazepam oral solution BP 2mg/5ml
Diazepam	Hameln Pharmaceuticals Limited	Diazepam injection BP
Diazepam	Sandoz Limited	Diazepam syrup 2mg/5ml
Diazepam	Sandoz Limited	Diazepam rectal tubes 5mg
Diazepam	Sandoz Limited	Diazepam rectal tubes 10mg
Diazepam	Pharmvit Limited	Diazepam tablets 2mg BP
Diazepam	Pharmvit Limited	Diazepam tablets 5mg BP.
Diazepam	Pharmvit Limited	Diazepam tablets 10mg BP
Diazepam	Generics (UK) Limited	Diazepam tablets BP 2mg
Diazepam	Generics (UK) Limited	Diazepam tablets BP 10mg
Diazepam	Waymade plc	Diazepam 2mg tablets
Diazepam	Waymade plc	Diazepam 5mg tablets
Diazepam	Waymade plc	Diazepam 10mg tablets
Diazepam	Ranbaxy Ireland Limited	Diazepam tablets BP. 2mg
Diazepam	Ranbaxy Ireland Limited	Diazepam tablets BP 5mg
Diazepam	Ranbaxy Ireland Limited	Diazepam tablets BP 10mg
Diazepam	Metwest Pharmaceuticals Limited	Diazepam 2mg tablets
Diazepam	Metwest Pharmaceuticals Limited	Diazepam 5mg tablets
Diazepam	Metwest Pharmaceuticals Limited	Diazepam 10mg tablets
Diazepam	Relonchem Limited	Diazepam 5mg tablets
Diazepam	Crescent Pharma Limited	Diazepam tablets BP 2mg
Diazepam	Crescent Pharma Limited	Diazepam tablets BP 5mg
Diazepam	Crescent Pharma Limited	Diazepam tablets BP 10mg
Diazepam	Wockhardt UK Limited	Diazepam 5mg/ml solution for injection
Diazepam	Wockhardt UK Limited	Diazepam Rectubes 10mg rectal solution
Diazepam	Wockhardt UK Limited	Diazepam Rectubes 2.5mg rectal solution
Diazepam	Wockhardt UK Limited	Diazepam Rectubes 5mg rectal solution
Diazepam	Wockhardt UK Limited	Diazepam Rectubes 20mg
Diazepam	Wockhardt UK Limited	Diazepam 10mg tablets
Diazepam	Wockhardt UK. Limited	Diazepam 5mg tablets
Diazepam	Wockhardt UK Limited	Diazepam 2mg tablets
Diazepam	Athlone Pharmaceuticals Limited	Diazepam tablets BP 5mg
Diazepam	Chelonia Healthcare Limited	Diazepam 2mg

Drug substance	*Authorisation holder company*	*Licensed product name*
Diazepam	Chelonia Healthcare Limited	Diazepam 5mg
Diazepam	Chelonia Healthcare Limited	Diazepam 10mg
Diazepam	FOURRTS (UK) Pharmacare Limited	Diazepam 5mg tablets BP
Dipotassium Clorazepate	Boehringer Ingelheim Limited	Tranxene 3.5mg capsules
Dipotassium Clorazepate	Boehringer Ingelheim Limited	Tranxene 7.5mg capsules
Dipotassium Clorazepate	Boehringer Ingelheim Limited	Tranxene 15mg capsules
Lorazepam	Norton Healthcare Limited	Lorazepam tablets BP 1 mg
Lorazepam	Norton Healthcare Limited	Lorazepam tablets BP 2.5 mg
Lorazepam	Sandoz Limited	Lorazepam tablet BP 1 mg
Lorazepam	Sandoz Limited	Lorazepam tablet BP 2.5 mg
Lorazepam	Pharmvit Limited	Lorazepam tablets 1mg
Lorazepam	Pharmvit Limited	Lorazepam tablets 2.5mg
Lorazepam	Genus Pharmaceuticals Holdings Limited	Lorazepam 1mg tablets
Lorazepam	Genus Pharmaceuticals Holdings Limited	Lorazepam 2.5mg tablets
Lorazepam	Metwest Pharmaceuticals Limited	Lorazepam 1mg tablets
Lorazepam	Metwest Pharmaceuticals Limited	Lorazepam 2.5mg tablets
Lorazepam	Chelonia Healthcare Limited	Lorazium tablets 1mg
Lorazepam	Chelonia Healthcare Limited	Lorazium tablets 2.5mg
Oxazepam	Actavis UK Limited	Oxazepam tablets BP 10mg
Oxazepam	Actavis UK Limited	Oxazepam tablets BP 15mg
Oxazepam	Generics (UK) Limited	Oxazepam tablets 10mg
Oxazepam	Generics (UK) Limited	Oxazepam tablets 15mg
Oxazepam	Generics (UK) Limited	Oxazepam tablets 30mg
Oxazepam	Genus Pharmaceuticals Holdings Limited	Oxazepam tablets 10mg
Oxazepam	Genus Pharmaceuticals Holdings Limited	Oxazepam tablets 15mg
Oxazepam	Zecare Limited	Oxazepam tablets BP 10mg
Oxazepam	Zecare Limited	Oxazepam tablets BP 15mg
Oxazepam	Zecare Limited	Oxazepam tablets BP 30mg

Blood: Imports

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 76W, on fresh frozen plasma, whether the figures in the table include *(a)* the cost of importing fresh frozen plasma from the Austrian Red Cross and *(b)* the cost of processing that imported fresh frozen plasma. [87776]

Anne Milton: NHS Blood and Transplant has confirmed that the cost of £4,949,045 for plasma processing, provided on 17 October 2011, *Official Report*, column 76W, does include the cost of importing and processing fresh frozen plasma from the Austrian Red Cross.

Cancer: Drugs

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to increase supply of the Caelyx brand of liposomal doxorubicin to allow cancer patients partway through a course of treatment with Caelyx to complete their planned course. [87684]

Mr Simon Burns: Due to production problems in the United States of America, the manufacturer of Caelyx (doxorubicin hydrochloride) is currently unable to supply the United Kingdom market.

We are in close contact with the company and we understand that it is unable to provide a date when Caelyx will return to the market.

In the meantime, there are alternative treatments available in the UK and clinicians are working with affected patients to ensure continuity of care.

Contraceptives

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department will provide to local authorities on how they should undertake a needs assessment of contraceptive services in their locality to ensure choice and open access to such services. [87597]

Anne Milton: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the intention is to mandate local authorities through regulations to commission open access sexual health services, including open access contraception services. The Department will work with Public Health England and colleagues in local authorities to examine the available support to help them to commission these services.

Departmental Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were working in his Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87346]

Mr Simon Burns: At 11 May 2010, there were 2,594.8 full-time equivalent (FTE) civil servants working in the Department. This figure included those on loan to the Department from other Government Departments and on fixed-term contracts. At 8 December 2011 there were 2,332.5 FTE: civil servants, also including loans-in and fixed-term appointees.

In addition, 805.4 FTE non-permanent workers (secondees-in, contractors, consultants and agency staff)

were working in the Department on 11 May 2010 and 470.5 FTE non-permanent workers were in place on 8 December 2011.

Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diabetes specialists there are on health and well-being boards. [87702]

Paul Burstow: The Health and Social Care Bill mandates the minimum membership of health and wellbeing boards. Local authorities and boards will be free to expand their membership beyond this in a way that reflects local needs and priorities—a decision best left to local discretion.

We expect boards to engage with a variety of partners to ensure the right expertise including clinical experts, such as diabetes specialists, influences both the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and joint health and wellbeing strategy.

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials next plan to raise with (i) the European Commissioner, (ii) his ministerial counterparts in other EU member states and (iii) officials in other member states his plans for the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of article 5 of the EU food supplements directive; [87083]

(2) when he last discussed with the European Commission his plans for the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of article 5 of the EU food supplements directive; and what response he received; [87084]

(3) when his plans are for the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of article 5 of the EU food supplements directive; and whether he plans to seek to repatriate to the UK competence for legislation in this area. [87085]

Anne Milton: I last met with European Commissioner for Health, John Dalli on 19 November 2010, to discuss United Kingdom concerns about the setting of maximum limits for food supplements.

I pressed for any future changes to the legislation to be based on scientific evidence of risk and not be unduly restrictive, so that the impact on UK industry is minimised, while maintaining consumer choice. Commissioner Dalli has confirmed that he recognises the UK's concerns and will take this into account in developing proposals.

The Commission has yet to indicate when negotiations on this issue will recommence and further to earlier discussions we have no immediate plans to pursue this formally, although informal discussions may occasionally arise at meetings in Europe. The setting of maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements is an area of EU competency, as such the UK is legally bound to implement legislation agreed by a majority of member states.

Endometriosis

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase early diagnosis of endometriosis. [87207]

Anne Milton: Information for the public on the causes and diagnosis of endometriosis is available on the NHS Choices website.

www.nhs.uk/conditions/endometriosis/Pages/Introduction.aspx

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) has developed a guideline on the investigation and management of endometriosis for health care professionals and an associated patient information leaflet, both of which are available on the RCOG website at:

www.rcog.org.uk/womens-health/clinical-guidance/investigation-and-management-endometriosis-green-top-24

www.rcog.org.uk/womens-health/clinical-guidance/endometriosis-what-you-need-know

Endometriosis is a specific topic within the undergraduate medical curriculum and in core specialist medical training for obstetricians and gynaecologists.

Genito-urinary Medicine

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hackney North and Stoke Newington of 6 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 558W, on abortion, when the Government plans to publish its sexual health policy document; and if he will make a statement. [87555]

Anne Milton: The Department plans to publish its sexual health policy document in spring 2012.

Health Professions: Hearing Impairment

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to promote deaf awareness amongst *(a)* staff in care homes and *(b)* doctors, nurses and hospital staff. [86936]

Paul Burstow: Health and social care services delivering support to people with disabilities have to ensure that they are fully compliant with the law, especially the Equality Act 2010. The general public sector equality duty in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities to pay due regard to eliminating discrimination and advancing equality of opportunity including making reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of the disabled people who use their services. An example of how national health service organisations are tackling this is the Equality Delivery System (EDS) which enables NHS organisations, working with local partners, to analyse their performance, and set equality objectives as part of mainstream business plans. The EDS includes examples of reasonable adjustments for people who are deaf.

Health Services: Finance

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account is taken by specialised commissioning groups of *(a)* in-year costs of treatment and *(b)* long-term savings in making their funding decisions. [87114]

Mr Simon Burns: This is primarily a matter for the local national health service. Specialised Commissioning Groups (SCGs) are accountable to their primary care trusts (PCTs) on all matters of governance including their financial decisions. SCGs will consider the cost and clinical effectiveness, the potential health gain and the opportunity costs and benefits of any proposal. As joint committees of PCTs, they will need to keep in mind the duty not to exceed spending limits.

Heart Diseases

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to include *(a)* atrial fibrillation and *(b)* other arrhythmias in the outcomes strategy for cardiovascular disease. [87787]

Mr Simon Burns: Work on the outcomes strategy for cardiovascular disease is at the very early stages. Decisions on the conditions to be included will be made as the strategy is developed in the new year.

Herbalife International

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department last (i) met and (ii) corresponded or otherwise communicated with representatives of (A) Herbalife UK Ltd and (B) any other member of the Herbalife International group; and for what purpose. [87082]

Anne Milton: I have not met or corresponded with members of the Herbalife group of companies.

Departmental officials regularly correspond with industry, including United Kingdom representatives of Herbalife Europe and International, to update them on regulatory issues. The last occasion was on 15 December 2011 about the agreed text for Commission Implementing Regulation establishing implementing rules for the application of article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods.

Departmental officials last met with a representative of Herbalife Europe on 12 December 2010 regarding the impact of European Union health claims legislation on the food supplements industry.

Officials of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have had no meetings with either representatives of Herbalife UK Ltd or any other member of the Herbalife International Group. The MHRA last wrote to a member of Herbalife on 18 September 2006 when they gave advice on the likely legislative status on a range of six products.

Hospitals: Young People

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people under the age of 18 years have been treated by NHS hospitals in 2011 up to the most recent date for which information is available; and what the equivalent figure is for the same period in 2010. [86985]

Anne Milton: The information requested is shown in the following tables. Information on finished admission episodes April to August 2011 and accident and emergency (A and E) attendances April 2010 to August 2011 is provisional.

Finished admission episodes[1] for under-18s in NHS hospitals[2] in 2010 and 2011

	Number
2010	
January	164,250
February	163,749
March	189,185
April	169,967
May	173,559
June	170,483
July	175,398
August	162,171
Total	1,368,762
2011	
January	176,231
February	170,387
March	191,351
April	169,388
May	171,610
June	172,128
July	173,410
August	163,562
Total	1,388,067

[1] A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] Hospital providers can also include treatment centres (TC). Normally, if data are tabulated by health care provider, the figure for an NHS trust gives the activity of all the sites as one aggregated figure. The quality of TC returns is such that data may not be complete. Some NHS trusts have not registered their TC as a separate site, and it is therefore not possible to identify their activity separately. Data from some independent sector providers, where the onus for arrangement of dataflows is on the commissioner, may be missing. Care must be taken when using these data as the counts may be lower than true figures.

Note:
The data are provisional and may be incomplete or contain errors for which no adjustments have yet been made. Counts produced from provisional data are likely to be lower than those generated for the same period in the final dataset. This shortfall will be most pronounced in the final month of the latest period, i.e. November from the (month 9) April to November extract. It is also probable that clinical data are not complete, which may in particular affect the last two months of any given period. There may also be errors due to coding inconsistencies that have not yet been investigated and corrected.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

A and E attendances for under-18s in NHS hospitals[1] in 2010 and 2011

	Number
2010	
January	255,455
February	264,497
March	357,987
April	340,627
May	373,669
June	345,111
July	343,501
August	274,610
Total	2,555,457
2011	
January	305,114
February	303,798
March	388,830
April	362,079
May	363,812
June	333,518
July	342,505
August	279,636

A and E attendances for under-18s in NHS hospitals[1] in 2010 and 2011

	Number
Total	2,679,292

[1] Hospital providers can also include treatment centres (TC). Normally, if data are tabulated by health care provider, the figure for an NHS trust gives the activity of all the sites as one aggregated figure. The quality of TC returns is such that data may not be complete. Some NHS trusts have not registered their TC as a separate site, and it is therefore not possible to identify their activity separately. Data from some independent sector providers, where the onus for arrangement of dataflows is on the commissioner, may be missing. Care must be taken when using these data as the counts may be lower than true figures.

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Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Lung Cancer

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the existence of a gap in outcomes in cases of lung cancer between England and other Western European countries and *(b)* the reasons for any such gap. [87779]

Paul Burstow: We know England's cancer survival rates are currently poorer than many comparable countries. To understand more about the reasons for the differences in survival rates between England and other comparable countries, we have established the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership (ICBP). The ICBP seeks to understand how and why cancer survival rates vary between countries and jurisdictions.

Membership of the ICBP covers 12 jurisdictions in six countries comprising Australia (New South Wales and Victoria); Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario); Denmark; Norway; Sweden; and the United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland and Wales). To ensure the validity and comparability of data between countries, ICBP partners were invited on the basis of broadly comparable wealth, universal access to health care and the existence of longstanding, high-quality, population-based cancer registration.

Lung cancer is one the four cancers we are looking at as part of the study. In December 2010, the ICBP published "Cancer survival in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the UK, 1995-2007 (the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership): an analysis of population-based cancer registry data". The report showed that survival has continued to improve for each cancer in all six countries, but generally remained higher in Australia, Canada, and Sweden, intermediate in Norway, and lower in Denmark and the UK. A copy of the report has already been placed in the Library.

The following table summarises England's survival rates for 2005-07, alongside those of the best performing country or jurisdiction.

Cancer	England	Sweden	Leading jurisdiction	Percentage Gap to leading jurisdiction
Lung cancer (1 year)	29.7	43.6	[1]43.6	13.9
Lung cancer (5 year)	8.7	16.3	[2]20.1	11.4

[1] Sweden
[2] Manitoba

Note:
Analyses for 2005-07 are period estimates for patients diagnosed during 2005-07, or diagnosed earlier but alive on 1 January 2005.

The patterns of lower survival rates in England are consistent with later stage at diagnosis or differences in treatment. The ICBP plans to publish a report on the lung cancer survival information in the first half of 2012.

Meningitis

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has issued guidance to GP consortia on *(a)* measures to deal with meningitis and *(b)* provision of psychological support for patients who have lost limbs as a result of the disease. [87150]

Mr Simon Burns: No guidance has been issued. Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the National Health Service Commissioning Board will be responsible for supporting clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), previously known as general practitioner consortia, in their commissioning decisions. This will include publishing commissioning guidance to which CCGs must have regard. This will be based on the quality standards that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has developed on the board's behalf. The board will also develop a commissioning outcomes framework to help hold CCGs to account for the quality of the health care services they commission.

Meningitis: Plymouth

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of meningitis were diagnosed in Plymouth in the last 12 months; and how many were of people aged *(a)* under and *(b)* over 16. [87151]

Anne Milton: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table:

Count of finished admission episodes[1] with a primary diagnosis of Meningitis[2] by selected age groups in Plymouth Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT)[3] 2010-11

Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Age	Count
Under 16	7

Count of finished admission episodes[1] with a primary diagnosis of Meningitis[2] by selected age groups in Plymouth Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT)[3] 2010-11

Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Age	*Count*
16 and over	21

[1] *Finished admission episodes:*
A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
[2] *Primary diagnosis:*
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
Diagnosis Codes used for Meningitis:
G00.0 Haemophilus meningitis.
G00.1 Pneumococcal meningitis.
G00.2 Streptococcal meningitis.
G00.3 Staphylococcal meningitis.
G00.9 Bacterial meningitis, unspecified.
G03 Meningitis due to other unspecified causes.
A87 Viral Meningitis.
A87.0D Enteroviral meningitis (with G02.0A)
A87.1D Adenoviral meningitis (with G02.0A)
A39.2 Acute meningococcaemia.
A39.3 Chronic meningococcaemia.
A39.4 Meningococcaemia, unspecified.
A search must be performed to locate the following codes; these would not be found in the primary field. The following asterisk codes (* or A) would be found in a SECONDARY position and their presence in the coded record indicates meningitis:
G01.X A Meningitis in bacterial diseases classified elsewhere.
G02.0 A Meningitis in viral diseases classified elsewhere.
G02.1 A Meningitis in mycoses.
G02.8 A Meningitis in other specified infectious and parasitic diseases classified elsewhere.
The following two codes must be paired together to indicate eosinophilic meningitis:
B83.2 D Angiostrongyliasis due to Parastrongylus cantonensis.
G05.2 A Encephalitis, myelitis and encephalomyelitis in other infectious and parasitic diseases classified elsewhere.
The ICD-10 codes required for meningococcal meningitis are:
A39.0 D Meningococcal meningitis.
G01.X A Meningitis in bacterial diseases classified elsewhere.
[3] *Strategic Health Authority/PCT of residence:*
The SHA or PCT containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.
Data quality:
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
These data should not be described as a count of people as the same person may have been admitted on more than one occasion.
Source:
HES, the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Mental Health Services: Young People

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the total budget allocated to the NHS was spent on children and adolescent mental health services in each of the last 10 years. [87694]

Paul Burstow: Child and adolescent mental health services are complex, ranging from universal provision to highly specialised services and are funded by both the national health service and local authorities. It is the responsibility of local commissioners to make commissioning decisions informed by a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to improve mental health outcomes for children and young people in their communities.

A total of £89 billion has been made available in primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations for 2011-12. This represents an increase of £2.6 billion in 2010-11. The available NHS expenditure figures on mental health disorders are shown in the following table. These are from estimated England level programme budgeting data, which are calculated using PCT and strategic health authority programme budgeting returns and the Department's resource accounts data. Figures also include an estimation of the Department's and special health authority expenditure.

	Gross Expenditure (£000s)				
Programme Budgeting Category	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Total Expenditure on Mental Health Disorders	9,125,744	10,278,503	10,477,252	11,261,656	11,906,280
Substance Misuse	716,326	832,522	926,728	987,468	1,094,819
Organic Mental Disorders	752,920	768,386	878,036	1,315,233	1,511,315
Psychotic Disorders	1,294,807	1,703,995	1,839,404	2,168,470	1,710,362
Child and Adolescent	716,726	736,353	687,097	772,114	755,807
Other Mental Health	5,644,965	6,237,247	6,145,988	6,018,371	6,833,955
Total Gross Expenditure	84,193,209	93,183,426	96,814,987	103,974,957	107,003,261

Expenditure on some services areas or activities is not included if it is not possible to make a reasonable estimation of expenditure by specific disease area. For this reason expenditure on some health care activity, including general practitioner services will be excluded from the total expenditure on mental health figures above.

If it is not possible to separately identify expenditure on child and adolescent mental health from other mental health services then expenditure will be classified as 'other mental health'.

Continual refinements are made to the programme budgeting data calculation methodology on an annual basis, for this reason, programme budgeting data cannot be used to analyse changes in investment in specific disease areas between years. Significant changes were made to the data collection in 2010-11, when the basis of estimation for disease specific expenditure changed from provider reference costs to the price paid for services by commissioners.

Mental Health: Ex-servicemen

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the levels of *(a)* homelessness and *(b)* mental health problems amongst military veterans. [87109]

Mr Simon Burns: The level of homelessness among military veterans is not the responsibility of the Department of Health but that of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), who have provided us with the following information:

Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly P1E returns.

Information is collected on the number of households accepted as being statutory homeless whose main reason for loss of last settled home was having left the armed forces. This will not include households containing people who have previously been in the armed forces but were made homeless for other reasons. This information was first collected in 2005-06 and is given as follows:

Number of households with reason of last settled home being having left the armed forces

	Number
2005-06	270
2006-07	200
2007-08	220
2008-09	160
2009-10	120
2010-11	150

Note:
Figures are rounded to nearest 10 households.
Source:
P1E returns

Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and a summary is published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Turning to veterans' mental health, this information is not collected centrally. However, the Department of Health is doing much to improve veterans' mental health and wellbeing, following the publication of my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison)'s report "Fighting Fit" published in October 2010. The Department has committed £7.2 million over the next four years of the spending review period to the implementation of the reports recommendations. Examples include, setting up a 24-hour veterans' helpline; the launch of an online counselling service 'Big White Wall'; and the launch of integrated veterans' mental health services in each of the existing strategic health authority areas, by the end of the current financial year.

NHS

Debbie Abrahams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS organisations other than hospitals *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department has visited since May 2010; and on what date each such visit took place. [87077]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on all ministerial visits, including those to national health service organisations, has been placed in the Library.

NHS Walk-in Centres: Wythenshawe

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to make a decision on the referral from Manchester's Health Scrutiny Committee of the decision to close the NHS walk-in centre in Wythenshawe. [87338]

Mr Simon Burns: Following initial advice from the Independent Reconfiguration Panel on NHS Manchester's proposals for the relocation of Wythenshawe forum, Withington and Ancoats walk in centres, the decision of the Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), was made public on 19 December 2011.

Organs: Donors

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 351W, on organs: donors, on what evidential basis he expects a 50% increase in deceased donor numbers in 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [87081]

Anne Milton: The expectation of achieving the 50% increase in donor rates by 2013 is based on latest available figures showing that deceased donor numbers have increased by 31.4% against the 2007-08 baseline. We are on target to achieve a 35% increase by March 2012 and a 50% increase by the following year as it is expected that there will be even greater increments in the last year. The appointment of Chris Rudge to chair a Transitional Steering Group pending the introduction of the new Commissioning Board will also help maintain the momentum of improvement focusing action on increasing consent rates, encouraging deceased donation in all appropriate circumstances and increasing donation from emergency medicine.

Prescription Drugs

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure that counterfeit medications do not enter the NHS supply chain; and what effects such medications have had on the pharmaceutical industry. [87116]

Mr Simon Burns: Counterfeit medicines rarely reach patients through the regulated supply chain and are more commonly available to consumers via unregulated websites. Although no fatalities have been attributed to counterfeit medicine in the United Kingdom, it is acknowledged that all counterfeit medicines are dangerous and pose a risk to patient health.

In response, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), an executive agency of the Department with responsibility for regulation of medicines for human use and medical devices, has developed and implemented a comprehensive Anti-Counterfeiting Strategy to combat the threat posed by the infiltration of counterfeit medicines and devices into the UK market.

A number of public awareness campaigns have been delivered, both by MHRA and also by MHRA in conjunction with other stakeholders such as the General Pharmaceutical Council and patient groups.

The MHRA monitors the internet for websites operating within the UK supplying medicines illegally, makes test purchases from these sites and, as a result, has successfully prosecuted a number of individuals. All referrals involving suspected counterfeit medicines are investigated thoroughly and necessary action is taken to protect public health. Enforcement activity is closely co-ordinated with other enforcement authorities around the world and MHRA regularly engages in international initiatives to tackle this issue.

The MHRA also chairs an anti-counterfeit stakeholders group, with representatives from, among others, UK police forces, regulators and industry, where intelligence concerning counterfeit medicines is regularly reviewed and assessed.

New requirements for wholesalers and distributors of medicines will be introduced by the Falsified Medicines Directive in January 2013. Further proposals affecting the pharmaceutical industry are being considered as part of the UK Supply Chain review.

Skin Cancer

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to raise the awareness of *(a)* GPs and *(b)* the public of the dangers posed by non-melanoma skin cancers that can be caused by regular exposure to the sun; [87765]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to raise awareness of the importance of people having regular skin checks. [87775]

Paul Burstow: In 2011-12, to provide information and advice to the public and health professionals, we have funded SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention campaign. SunSmart activities have included producing and distributing educational materials, organising a schools campaign, providing support to local providers working on skin cancer prevention and a major targeted marketing campaign in conjunction with a popular music festival.

The SunSmart website also provides additional information about how to reduce your risk of skin cancer as well as how to spot the symptoms of the disease at:

www.sunsmart.org.uk

Information on the causes of non-melanoma and malignant melanoma can also be found on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Cancer-of-the-skin/Pages/Causes.aspx

and at:

www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Malignant-melanoma/Pages/Causes.aspx

Cancer Research UK is currently running 'R UV Ugly', a campaign funded by a Third Sector Investment Programme grant from the Department, to raise awareness of the dangers of sunbeds and the benefits of skin checks. The campaign is being run in partnership with SK:n who provide free ultraviolet scans in their clinics across England.

We have provided a further Third Sector Investment Programme grant to Cancer Research UK and the British Association of Dermatologists to develop a toolkit to provide practical online support and training to help general practitioners (GPs) with pattern recognition for skin lesions. The toolkit will be piloted in early 2012 before a planned national roll-out and is being developed in consultation with an expert advisory group consisting of GPs and dermatologists.

As part of our programme of work to deliver earlier diagnosis of cancer, to improve survival rates, a range of actions has been undertaken to support GPs in referring appropriate patients to secondary care. We are also in the process of considering further possible action to improve the public's awareness of the symptoms of the less common cancers.

The Department has also published implementation guidance for local authorities on the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 and information for sunbed businesses. The purpose of the Act is to prevent those under 18 years from being allowed to use sunbeds in commercial premises.

TREASURY

Association of British Insurers

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings he has had with the Association of British Insurers since the March 2011 Budget. [87641]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Banks: Pay

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications of the transposition of the EU Capital Requirements Directive IV into UK law for the implementation of the recommendations of the Vickers Report. [86978]

Mr Hoban: The European Commission published its legislative proposals on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms, the Capital Requirements Regulation and Capital Requirements Directive IV, in July 2011. This will, in part implement the Basel III accords in the EU.

As stated in the Government's response to the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Banking (ICB), the current draft EU legislation constrains the ability of member states to impose tougher minimum regulatory standards on banks, and restricts member states' ability to use some macro-prudential tools. However, negotiations are ongoing and the Government will continue to work with the European Commission and like-minded member states to provide member states with the flexibility necessary to implement more stringent minimum requirements. Such amendments would provide the basis in EU legislation to enable the Government to implement the ICB package.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which information is available. [87007]

Miss Chloe Smith: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [73664]

Miss Chloe Smith: Spending by Treasury Ministers during the period October 2010 to September 2011 on official hospitality is shown in the following table.

	£
October 2010-September 2011	6,612

Spending on hospitality in previous financial years was:

	£000
2007-08	125
2008-09	91
2009-10	116
2010-11	40

Expenditure on official hospitality is kept under rigorous scrutiny to ensure value for money and effectiveness and is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

Departmental Travel

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the number of employees who use *(a)* cycle to work schemes, *(b)* employer-provided buses and *(c)* tax-free parking. [87205]

Mr Gauke: This information is not collected as there is no requirement for employers to report use of these benefits in kind to HM Revenue and Customs.

I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer on 23 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 437W.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr David: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 27 October on the eurozone crisis, what he means by greater fiscal integration in the eurozone. [78500]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 7 November 2011]:* The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), and the Prime Minister, have been clear in their view that euro area countries need to accept the remorseless logic of monetary union that leads from a single currency to greater fiscal integration, to ensure that fiscal responsibility is hard-wired into the system.

In their statement of 9 December, the euro area agreed that there should be tighter fiscal discipline as part of restoring market confidence, including tough new budgetary rules, more automatic sanctions, and stricter surveillance. The UK has made clear that, while it supports the euro area's intention for countries to come together to resolve their problems, we will only allow that to happen inside the European Union treaties if there are proper protections for the single market and for other key British interests.

Financial Services Bill

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish the draft memorandum of understanding between each of the bodies in the UK regulatory structure proposed in the provisions of the draft Financial Services Bill. [87687]

Mr Hoban: The draft Financial Services Bill, published in June, provides for a number of different statutory memorandums of understanding (MOUs). The Government intend to make drafts of these MOUs available during the passage of the Bill in order to aid Parliament's scrutiny of the draft legislation.

As the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), explained to the Joint Committee on the draft Bill on 15 November 2011, before publishing a draft of the crisis management MOU between the Treasury and the Bank of England, the Government will consider:

first, the recommendations of the Treasury Select Committee in its report into the accountability of the Bank of England (published on 8 November); and

second, any relevant recommendations made by the Joint Committee itself in its report published on 19 December.

Financial Services: National Income

Hazel Blears: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of UK gross domestic product generated by the financial services sector in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14, *(d)* 2014-15 and *(e)* 2015-16. [87074]

Miss Chloe Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Infrastructure: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive about the National Infrastructure Plan. [84847]

Danny Alexander: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Inland Revenue

Mr Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 791W, on the Inland Revenue, if he will take steps to ascertain from the Permanent Secretary for Tax, HM Revenue and Customs, whether he had responsibility as a Commissioner for the Inland Revenue Large Business Office between 1997 and 2000. [87470]

Mr Gauke: The Permanent Secretary for Tax at HMRC did not become a Commissioner for the Inland Revenue until July 2000 and so did not have responsibility for the Large Business Office between 1997 and 2000.

Japan Tobacco International: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Hain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87617]

Miss Chloe Smith: Information about hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers is published quarterly by Departments. Information for the period 13 May 2010 to 30 June 2011 can be accessed on departmental websites. Information for 1 July onwards will be published in due course.

Members: Correspondence

Paul Maynard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Blackpool North and Cleveleys. [87162]

Mr Gauke: HM Treasury had no record of a letter from my hon. Friend of 12 October 2011. My officials now obtained a copy from his office and I shall reply shortly.

PAYE

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representatives from *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(b)* the Department for Work and Pensions and *(c)* other bodies will sit on the monitoring body for the pilot from April 2012 of real-time pay-as-you-earn information; and who will decide whether the pilot should be extended. [86565]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 13 December 2011]:* Around 300 volunteer software developers, employers and pension providers are taking part in the real time information (RTI) pilot which will start in April 2012. Depending on the findings from the pilot's early stages, an additional 1,300 volunteers will join in July.

Another 250,000 employers could then be invited to start using the system in November.

Ultimately, it will be for the RTI programme's senior responsible owner (SRO), in close consultation with industry, to decide at each stage whether or not the pilot should be extended. There is a specific governance mechanism in place to support the SRO in making these decisions. This group includes membership from the Department for Work and Pensions' universal credit programme office and key business areas from within HM Revenue and Customs as well as representatives from HMRC's IT partners, Aspire and Vocalink.

The RTI programme as a whole has a number of governance and assurance forums, including a senior level programme board, which advise the SRO. Membership of these groups is drawn from the broad range of stakeholders affected by RTI.

Poverty: Rural Areas

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of levels of rural poverty since May 2010. [85966]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

The Government publish annual data on poverty including in English rural areas. The latest data released on rural poverty cover 2009-10 and are available in the "Statistical Digest of Rural England 2011" published on DEFRA's website in September 2011 at:

www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13641-rural-digest2011.pdf

Poverty in the UK's rural areas outside England is a matter for the devolved Administrations.

Public Sector: Pay

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on public sector workers' income of the extension of the public sector pay freeze announced in the autumn statement as a proportion of net income in each income decile. [86778]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* The pay freeze will not be extended. At the autumn statement the Chancellor announced that the public sector pay freeze for those earning over £21,000 would end after two years. Public sector pay will then average at 1% for the two years following the pay freeze. Individual Departments will need to consider how best to deliver the 1% average in their workforces.

Revenue and Customs: Email

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when HM Revenue and Customs expects to be able to answer all taxpayers' queries by e-mail. [86984]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has over 100 electronic contact services available to customers that offer a structured and secure means of communicating with HMRC through its website and we are always looking to provide more. HMRC will only introduce electronic contact solutions where we are certain about the authenticity of the person sending the e-mail and where there are strong controls around the data being sent.

HMRC have recently consulted (http://hmrc.gov.uk/consultations/) on making an e-mail address a required element of a business's designatory information. We are currently analysing views and expect to formally publish results and HMRC's response early in the new year.

Revenue and Customs: Overtime

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely cost of overtime payments for staff in HM Revenue and Customs working to reduce the number of outstanding child benefit claims and average processing times. [86019]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 12 December 2011]:* HMRC have spent £66,802 in 2011-12 on overtime to reduce average processing times for child benefit.

Unpaid Taxes: Business

Mike Crockart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 71W, on taxation: business, what constitutes a reasonable period over which tax arrears can be paid; and whether such periods have changed over the last 12 months. [87509]

Mr Gauke: Time to pay arrangements are always negotiated over the shortest affordable period, rarely exceeding 12 months, although each case is considered individually on its own particular circumstances.

HMRC remains absolutely committed to demonstrating a sympathetic approach to businesses that have genuine short-term difficulties in paying the tax they owe.

These criteria and this approach have not changed in the last 12 months.

VAT: Electronic Publishing

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 539W, on VAT: electronic publishing, if he will consider implementing a measure similar to that in France for the reduction of VAT on unenriched e-books. [87479]

Mr Gauke: Under EU law, VAT on electronic books must be charged at the standard rate. A reduced rate cannot be applied to digital or electronic supplies, or supplies of text via the internet, as they are classed as supplies of services rather than physical goods. There is therefore no scope in the principal VAT directive to apply a reduced rate on e-books.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on new heating fuel to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from (i) homes, (ii) businesses and (iii) public buildings in rural areas; and if he will support the inclusion of bio-liquids in the Renewable Heat Incentive from October 2012. [86225]

Gregory Barker: The Department has undertaken several evaluations of the use of bioliquid technologies for heat generation though the National Non-Food Crops Centre. The details of these have been published on their website at:

http://www.nnfcc.co.uk/publications

We will consider bioliquids for inclusion in the renewable heat incentive scheme in phase 2. However, before bioliquids can be supported under the scheme we need to establish a co-ordinated approach to their use so that the heat market does not unduly impact on other important uses, in particular transport. In addition, we would need to ensure we meet our legal commitments under the renewable energy directive by developing sustainability criteria.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [86988]

Gregory Barker: DECC's total expenditure in the year ending 31 March 2011 on catering services, entertainment and hospitality was £158,000. Of this total, expenditure on general catering with DECC's in-house provider during the financial year 2010-11 amounted to £66,000. This amount is likely to relate largely or wholly to catering for meetings, including drinks as well as food.

DECC also paid the provider an additional £40,500 in contract costs over this period. From May 2011, DECC has received its catering through a new provider under a zero-cost arrangement where additional payments are not automatically required.

DECC's catering service is delivered through a contract procured by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Electricity: Prices

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* likely and *(b)* maximum possible effect on the average household electricity bill by 2020 of not implementing the reductions to feed-in tariffs for (i) small-scale solar PV proposed in the comprehensive review and (ii) large-scale solar PV introduced after the fast track review. [86493]

Gregory Barker: Based on analysis undertaken at the time of the Fast Track Review, we have estimated that not implementing the changes to tariffs for large scale (greater than 50 kW) solar photovoltaics in the fast track review would have added approximately £10 (2010 prices, undiscounted) to the average domestic energy bill in 2020. This is based on the estimate of the cost to consumers under the 'Do Nothing' option in the Fast Track Review impact assessment:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Consultations/fits-review/fast-track-review-announcement-impact-assessment.pdf

As well as proposing new tariffs for small scale solar PV, the comprehensive review has also proposed further reductions to tariffs for large scale PV. In the impact assessment for the most recent consultation:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/fits-comp-review-p1/3416-fits-IA-solar-pv-draft.pdf

we estimated that under the 'no change' scenario and central growth rates, the impact on the average domestic energy bill would be around £26 in 2020 (2010 prices undiscounted).

We have revised this estimate in the light of much higher observed growth in PV since the impact assessment to around £40 (2010 prices, undiscounted) in a central uptake scenario, and around £80 (2010 prices, undiscounted) in a high uptake scenario. It should be noted that these estimates represent the impact on bills of both large and small scale PV installations, as we have not separated their respective impacts.

Estimates of future PV growth are extremely uncertain. DECC is continually reviewing its evidence in the light of latest data, and will update estimates for the final impact assessment.

Energy Company Obligation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to data-sharing between the Government and energy suppliers as a means of identifying and targeting households to be assisted by his proposed Energy Company Obligation. [87633]

Gregory Barker: Regulation 5 of the Disclosure of State Pension Credit Information (Warm Home Discount) Regulations 2011, allows data to be shared between Government and energy supply companies participating in the Warm Home Discount Scheme in order to provide low income pensioners with a discount off their electricity bill and to provide relevant assistance to those vulnerable pensioners. This assistance can include targeting the delivery of ECO Affordable Warmth measures.

As part of the Green Deal proposals, the Government are consulting on a referrals mechanism under which interested households that may be eligible for assistance under the Affordable Warmth obligation and contact the remote advice service would be channelled through to the participating energy suppliers.

Energy: Private Rented Housing

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to provide any additional financial support to private sector tenants whose landlords have carried out the maximum package of measures funded under the Green Deal or Energy Company Obligation, but continue to be classified as being in fuel poverty. [86975]

Gregory Barker: The consultation on the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation is currently under way.

The Warm Home Discount scheme requires energy suppliers to provide low income vulnerable households with discounts on their electricity bills. Through the scheme pensioners, including those in rented accommodation, who pay their own electricity bill with a participating energy supply company, and meet the eligibility criteria outlined as follows, may be eligible for the discount.

Scheme year	*Eligibility*	*£*
2011-12	In receipt of pension credit guarantee credit only (i.e. no savings credit)	120
2012-13	In receipt of pension credit guarantee credit only 80 and over and in receipt of both pension credit guarantee credit and savings credit.	130
2013-14	In receipt of pension credit guarantee credit only 75 and over and in receipt of both pension credit guarantee credit and savings credit	135
2014-15	All in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit (only those in receipt of savings credit only are excluded)	140

Other low income vulnerable households may also be assisted through the scheme. The scheme will be worth £1.1 billion up to 2014-15 and overall we expect 2 million low income vulnerable households a year to be assisted through the Warm Home Discount scheme.

Energy: Tariffs

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that energy customers can switch from pre-pay tariffs to quarterly tariff payments where they are cheaper. [87395]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including the rules that govern switching payment methods. Prepayment meter customers who are not in debt may switch payment method or supplier at anytime. For those in debt, prepayment meters can be a valuable alternative to disconnection.

New rules introduced by Ofgem in 2009 to prevent unfair price differentials, such as those between different payment methods, have shown that prepayment meter customers now pay, on average, £20 less than standard credit customers for their gas and electricity.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of people who are prevented from leaving pre-pay energy tariffs because their energy supplier will not allow them to switch payment method. [87396]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem is responsible for monitoring and publishing information about prepayment meter customers. During 2010, 5,652 prepayment meter customers who were not in debt had their request for credit terms refused by their electricity or gas supplier. Ofgem is following this up.

Energy: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what support he is providing for renewable energy schemes in Welsh waters. [87745]

Charles Hendry: Renewable energy schemes in Welsh waters are eligible for support under the renewables obligation (RO). The RO is currently the Government's main mechanism for incentivising the deployment of large-scale renewable electricity in England and Wales. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), on behalf of the UK Government, is currently consulting in England and Wales on subsidy levels for the period 2013 to 2017. The public consultation proposes an increase in the rate of support for wave and tidal stream technologies, from two to five renewable obligation certificates (ROCs) per megawatt hour of renewable electricity generated, and a higher rate of support for offshore wind projects (two ROCs in 2014-15, reducing to 1.8 ROCs in 2016-17) than would be the case without the current banding review. The public consultation closes on 12 January 2012. A copy of the consultation proposals is available on DECC's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/cons_ro_review/cons_ro_review.aspx

DECC has recently announced up to £30 million for innovation in offshore wind technologies, and up to £20 million for marine energy, subject to final value for money assessments. These will be UK wide calls and Welsh projects will be eligible to apply.

Green Deal Scheme

Martin Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether people who incorporate microgeneration in their Green Deal packages can participate in the *(a)* Renewable Heat Incentive and *(b)* Feed-in Tariff schemes. [87289]

Gregory Barker: We have designed the Green Deal as a long term framework to support cost-effective energy efficiency measures, including microgeneration. However, at present these measures are less cost effective than other measures, such as insulation, so we are supporting them through the Feed-in Tariff (FITs) and planned Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) instead.

Microgeneration measures can be recommended in an assessment and installed at the same time as a Green Deal, but if the FIT or RHI are claimed then these cannot be included in a Green Deal financing plan.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change over what period the funding allocated to incentivise take-up of the Green Deal will be provided. [87423]

Gregory Barker: The funding is allocated as £30 million over financial year 2012-13 and £170 million over financial year 2013-14.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which body will be responsible for delivering the funding to incentivise take-up of the Green Deal. [87424]

Gregory Barker: I am currently considering options for how best to use the new and additional funds announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810. As such, I have not yet taken a decision on who will deliver these funds.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change from which budget he plans to fund incentives to householders to take up the Green Deal. [87425]

Gregory Barker: As announced in the Autumn Statement of 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, £200 million of capital funds have been allocated to DECC to support and incentivise Green Deal take-up. These funds are a time-limited addition to DECC's departmental expenditure limit settlement.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the £200 million funding that he has recently announced to incentivise take-up of the Green Deal, what type of incentives he plans to offer. [87426]

Gregory Barker: I am considering options for how to use the new and additional funds announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, and will provide further details in due course. These are capital funds, so will be used to directly incentivise the installation of energy efficiency improvements. I therefore want the funds to be used in a way that proves effective at driving take-up while offering value for money to the public purse.

Japan Tobacco International

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87616]

Gregory Barker: Information about hospitality received by Ministers and special advisers is published quarterly by Departments. Information for the period 13 May 2010 to 30 June 2011 can be accessed on departmental websites. Information for 1 July onwards will be published in due course.

Renewable Energy

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of progress towards the aim of generating 30 per cent. of domestic electricity from renewable sources by 2020. [87781]

Gregory Barker: The UK has a binding target under the Renewable Energy Directive 2009 to produce 15% of its energy from renewable sources across the electricity, heat and transport sectors by 2020. We envisage that in order to meet this target we will need to deliver 30% of our electricity from renewable sources in 2020.

In 2011 quarter 2, renewable electricity generation (excluding non-biodegradable wastes) contributed 9.3% of total UK electricity generation—an increase of 3.2 percentage points on the share in 2010 Q2, and the highest quarterly share yet[1].

[1] *Source:*
Energy Trends online table 7.1
http://www.decc.gov.uk/media/viewfile.ashx?filetype=4&filepath=Statistics/source/renewables/et7_1.xls&minwidth=true

CABINET OFFICE

Cybercrime

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether there are network security measures similar to those used by the armed forces in place to protect *(a)* businesses and *(b)* individual internet users from cyber infrastructure attacks. [87432]

Mr Maude: The Government have a wide ranging set of measures in place to protect the UK against cyber attacks. Our new national Cyber Security Strategy published in November:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/cyber-security-strategy

sets out our plans for how we will work with industry to improve the UK's cyber security and build confidence by creating a more secure and resilient cyberspace.

The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) provides advice on electronic and cyber protective security measures to the businesses and organisations that comprise the UK's critical national infrastructure (CNI), including public utilities companies and financial centres. This advice includes measures relating to network security.

The Cyber Security Strategy set out some of the ways CPNI is working to increase its reach beyond this network to companies not ordinarily considered to be part of the CNI.

There are also a number of measures in place to protect individual internet users. Internet service providers (ISPs) offer free security software, security information and advice to customers, and the Government have committed to work closely with ISPs to better embed security awareness and software within their services.

The Government also support Get Safe Online, a joint Government/industry initiative to raise awareness of internet security.

The majority of threats can be avoided by following some simple measures, and via Get Safe Online we will continue to work to raise awareness and to educate and empower people and firms to protect themselves online.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which information is available; [87003]

(2) how much the Downing street estate spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [87005]

Mr Maude: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The Cabinet Office has incurred expenditure during the last financial year in relation to food and catering services. However, this expenditure is not identified separately on the Department's financial systems and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Databases

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 679-80W, on Government Departments: databases, and with reference to the Autumn Statement, what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the economy of the Open Data project. [87545]

Mr Maude: The Autumn Statement given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on 29 November 2011, *Official Report*, columns 799-810, included a number of measures developed by the Transparency Team in the Cabinet Office, with the Treasury and other Departments, designed to boost investment in medical research and digital technology in the UK, including many small and medium sized enterprises.

These measures should improve medical knowledge and practice with world-first linked-data services which will enable health care impacts to be tracked across the entire health service. In addition, commitments were also made to release data related to planned and real-time information on the running of trains and buses across Great Britain and data on almost every road in Britain. Measures will also empower patients through individual access to their personal GP records online and encourage the market for education data management and learning platforms.

The Government also established a Data Strategy Board and a Public Data Group that will maximise the value of the data from the Met Office, Ordnance Survey, the Land Registry and Companies House. It will make available for free a range of core reference datasets from these bodies to support the development of high-value data businesses.

In view of the commercial and social priority of open data, the Government are to commit up to £10 million over five years with match funding from industry and academic centres to support an Open Data Institute through the Technology Strategy Board. Further details on these measures can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/open-data-measures-autumn-statement-2011

New Business: East of England

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new businesses have been established in *(a)* Witham constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* the east of England in each month since May 2010. [87747]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many new businesses have been established in (a) Witham constituency, (b) Essex and (c) the East of England in each month since May 2010. [87747]

Monthly statistics on business start ups are not available. Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from 2002 onwards in the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The following table contains the latest statistics available, which give the number of enterprise births in (a) Witham constituency, (b) Essex and (c) the East of England in 2010.

Count of enterprise birth in 2010 in the east of England, Essex and Witham

	Number
East of England	22,580
Essex	5,875
Witham	380

Third Sector: North-west England

Hazel Blears: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many charities were established in the North West in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [87749]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission's chief executive to reply.

Letter from Sam Younger, dated 19 December 2011:

I have been asked to respond to your Written Parliamentary Question on how many charities were established in the North West in (a) 2008, (b) 2009 and (c) 2010 [87749].

The number of charities whose area of operation was within the North West of England (as defined by the Office for National Statistics) that were newly registered during each calendar year was as follows.

Registered in:	*Charities*
2008	435
2009	516
2010	486

There may be additional charities, such as those with an income of less than £5,000 per annum, which are not required to register and for which information is not available.

I hope this information is helpful.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the Advocacy Fund provided to developing countries' negotiators at the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban. [87290]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Advocacy Fund provided technical, legal and logistical support to developing country negotiators at the UN conference in Durban. This included:

Support to the Least Developed Countries Group to co-ordinate, to access technical support on key negotiation issues and to send delegates to cover important issues.

Training to support younger negotiators from developing countries to fully participate and develop their skills in the negotiations.

Provision of legal advice and legal briefing on negotiation issues to developing country negotiators.

Developing Countries: Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which country offices used his Department's guidance note on education for children with disabilities as part of their planning for aid to the education sector during his Department's bilateral aid review. [87691]

Mr O'Brien: The coalition Government are committed to the inclusion of disabled people in development. To this end, we are supporting countries to develop realistic plans for programmes that ensure everyone has access to education, including children with disabilities. DFID's guidance note on inclusive education for all children with disabilities in developing countries, published to support our country programmes to develop inclusive education strategies, was provided to all our country offices to support their education sector appraisals in the bilateral aid review.

We do not specifically monitor the use of policy guidance by individual country advisers. All of our country offices are currently producing business cases setting out the details of their education support. These will contain more specific programming information than the operational plans that cover all sectors. All business cases are published on the DFID website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

when they are approved.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the use by country offices of his Department's guidance note on education for children with disabilities in their planning under the bilateral aid review. [87692]

Mr O'Brien: The coalition Government are committed to the inclusion of disabled people in development.

The Department for International Development's (DFID) guidance note on inclusive education for all children with disabilities in developing countries, was published to support our country programmes to develop inclusive education strategies. The note offers practical suggestions on supporting children with disabilities to access education and learn effectively and is available on the DFID website. DFID does not specifically monitor the use of policy guidance by individual country advisers. However, we are supporting countries to develop realistic plans for programmes that ensure everyone has access to education, including children with disabilities.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what training and support his Department *(a)* has provided and *(b)* plans to provide to enable country offices to effectively implement his Department's guidance note on education for children with disabilities. [87693]

Mr O'Brien: The coalition Government are committed to ensuring the inclusion of disabled people in development. The guidance note on inclusive education for children with disabilities in developing countries was developed with practitioners and experts in this field and was published to support our country programmes to develop inclusive education strategies.

Our guidance on disability assists with practical suggestions on how country offices can work with Governments and non-government organisations on how policies and programmes can support access to education for children with disabilities and to learn effectively. This guidance is among a range of policy guidance made specifically available on an internal website set up to support country offices with their business case planning. All education advisers are offered support with continuous professional development and training in a multitude of areas of education and development, which include how to support children with disabilities.

Developing Countries: Water

Mr Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to announce the outcomes of his Department's review of support for water and sanitation programmes; and if he will ensure the review will set out his Department's plans to tackle water and sanitation related diarrhoeal diseases. [87634]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently reviewing its work on water and sanitation to see how we can achieve even more results and better value for money. This includes looking at the effectiveness of programmes in improving health outcomes.

The results of this exercise will be available early in 2012.

Mr Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to increase the number of countries where his Department has water and sanitation programmes. [87635]

Mr O'Brien: As previously announced, the Department for International Development (DFID) will fund five new major bilateral programmes on water and sanitation in Africa (Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe) in the coming year.

Any additional commitments will be dependant on the results of the ongoing review of DFID's water and sanitation programme.

Mr Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has plans for water and sanitation programmes in Pakistan. [87636]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have plans to provide direct support for water and sanitation programmes in Pakistan.

However, UK aid to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Balochistan will help community-based organisations improve local services and infrastructure, including water and sanitation, up to 2015.

Mr Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's bilateral aid funding will be spent on *(a)* water and sanitation, *(b)* health and *(c)* education in 2011-12. [87637]

Mr O'Brien: Details of the Department for International Development (DFID) bilateral aid expenditure by sector is published in Statistics on International Development (SID) which is available online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

The figures for 2011-12 are not yet available, but the results we intend to achieve are set out in the operational plans available on our website. The latest available figures are as follows:

Sector	*Total DFID bilateral programme (£ million)*	*Share of total DFID bilateral programme (%)*
Water and sanitation	112.1	2.6
Health	830.1	19.5
Education	560.9	13.2
Total DFID bilateral programme	4,253.7	—

Mr Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will attend the Sanitation and Water for All High Level Meeting on 20 April 2012 for the purpose of addressing the lack of political priority given to sanitation in many developing countries. [87638]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) strongly supports the work of the Sanitation and Water for All partnership to increase accountability of both developing countries and donors for delivering results on the ground.

DFID recognises that it will be important to have a strong UK presence at the next high-level meeting in April 2012 and the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), intends to be there.

Drugs: Patents

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with UK-based pharmaceutical companies to encourage their participation in the medicine patent pool. [87012]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government supported the establishment of the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) through our contributions to UNITAID. The UK has a constant dialogue with pharmaceutical companies, like Gilead Sciences, a member of the MPP, through the members of the Industry-government Forum on Access to Medicines. Gilead Sciences, who has joined the Patent Pool, is also a member. There is more information on our website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/igfam

We are also aware of and encourage continuing discussions directly between pharmaceutical companies and the Medicines Patent Pool.

Kidnapping

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in his Department have been kidnapped whilst on official business overseas in each of the last 10 years. [87562]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Two Department for International Development (DFID) officials posted to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia were kidnapped in 2007. They were released after being held 12 days. There have been no other kidnappings in the last 10 years.

Nigeria: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on his Department's aid contribution to Nigeria; and if he will make a statement. [87560]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Despite producing oil, Nigeria is not a rich country. Its total economy is one-twentieth the size of the UK's economy, with many more people. Over 100 million Nigerians live on less than £1 a day. A peaceful, more democratic and prosperous Nigeria, meeting the basic needs of its citizens, is possible within a generation and the Department for International Development (DFID) remains committed to supporting this.

As outlined in the DFID Operational Plan for Nigeria, which was published in May 2011, between 2011 and 2015 DFID will focus on promoting democracy, wealth creation and the delivery of basic services. We will work with the Nigerian Government to spend their own money more effectively. No UK aid will go through Government budgets, so as to protect against corruption and avoid substituting Nigerian public resources.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial assistance his Department has given to Nigeria in each of the last 10 years. [87567]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided the following bilateral aid to Nigeria since financial year 2002-03 (the earliest year in which data are available from the Statistics on International Development (SID)):

	£ million
2002-03	29
2003-04	31
2004-05	47
2005-06	78
2006-07	81
2007-08	85
2008-09	110
2009-10	114
2010-11	142

Nigeria: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what development programmes funded by his Department aim at promoting democracy in Nigeria. [87552]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In Nigeria, our support to promote democracy is channelled through the "Deepening Democracy in Nigeria programme". The programme spans the period 2010-15. In partnership with the US Government and the United Nations Development Programme, we support Parliament, civil society, the election commission and political parties. There is a particular focus on getting more women to take part in the electoral process.

The Department for International Development (DFID) was instrumental in enabling Nigerians to have their first ever credible elections in April 2011. At a cost of 33p per voter, we helped the election commission register 73 million voters in 2010. Towards the next elections in 2015, we are working to strengthen the election commission's ability to manage elections, improve Parliament's ability to hold the executive to account and support civil society to demand greater accountability from elected leaders.

South Sudan: Equality

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what development programmes funded by his Department aim at promoting equality in South Sudan. [87554]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK recognises the critical importance of work to promote equality as a key foundation for peace and development in South Sudan. We look for opportunities to promote equality across the range of our programmes as well as through specific targeted support. Examples of programmes that will promote equality include a planned five-year Girls Education programme which will help to tackle the barriers that prevent girls from going to school and support 150,000 girls through primary school. In the health sector, in addition to our support for primary health care we plan to help strengthen reproductive health care, so that 21,000 women are able to deliver with the help of a trained birth attendant. We are also starting to design a programme which will help to improve access to justice for 250,000 women.

Turkey: Earthquakes

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Turkish Government on the recent earthquake in that country. [86723]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In response to a specific request from the Turkish Government I agreed to provide 1,144 protective winter tents to house 5,500 people who were without shelter. The Turkish Government have not made any further requests. The UK Government will continue to monitor the situation in the affected region.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work her Department is undertaking into developing biofuels from non-feedstock sources. [87132]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* All biofuels are made from feedstocks. Suitable feedstocks for biofuel production include agricultural crops, wastes, residues, ligno-cellulosic and non-food cellulosic materials.

From 15 December 2011, all biofuel feedstocks must meet certain sustainability criteria, as set out in the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007 (as amended), in order to count towards the UK's renewable transport fuel obligation.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate her Department has made of the change in the amount of biofuels which will be needed for transport fuel in order to meet the requirement of the renewable energy directive for 10% of transport fuel to come from renewable sources by 2020. [87133]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* The renewable energy directive (RED) contains a target for the UK to source 10% of energy used in transport from renewable sources by 2020. The contribution of biofuels made from wastes, residues, non-food cellulosic material and ligno-celluiosic material will count twice towards this target.

Given uncertainties over the sustainability of all biofuels and the best deployment across sectors we have not, at this stage, amended the renewable transport fuel obligation biofuel supply targets. The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) is obliged under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (Amendment) Order 2011 to come forward with proposals for measures to ensure delivery of the transport requirements of the RED for the period 2014 to 2020 at a later date.

Biofuels: Imports

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on the amount of biofuel imported from overseas in each of the last 10 years; which countries such biofuels were imported from; and if she will estimate the effect on carbon emissions levels of the use of imported biofuel in each such year. [87487]

Norman Baker: Details of the country of origin of feedstocks for biofuels and associated greenhouse gas savings are available from the introduction of the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) in 2008.

This information is available in the RTFO Administrator's reports to Parliament for 2008-09 and 2009-10 can be found online at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/other/9780108508868/9780108508868.pdf

and

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/other/9780108509681/9780108509681.pdf

Further detail can be found in the RTFO Administrator's reports on the supply of biofuel to the UK, available online at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110407094507/http://www.renewablefuelsagency.gov.uk/sites/rfa/files/_documents/RFA_verified_report_RTFO_year_one.pdf

and here:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110407094507/http://www.renewablefuelsagency.gov.uk/sites/rfa/files/24_RFA_verified_report_RTFO_year_two_v1.0.0_0.pdf

Provisional data for 2010-11 can be found online here:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/biofuels_april_2011/rtfoaug2011.pdf

and a verified report will be published in the new year.

British Transport Police Authority

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by the British Transport police authority in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12 to date; and if she will make a statement. [87741]

Mrs Villiers: The number of full-time equivalent staff employed by the British Transport police authority in 2010-11 was 10 and in 2011-12 to date is 9.5.

Bus Services: Local Government

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to section 30 of the Coalition Agreement, what recent progress she has made in encouraging joint working between bus operators and local authorities. [87501]

Norman Baker: On 8 December I announced the £50 million Better Bus Area Fund, with the explicit intention of encouraging local authorities to work in partnership with bus operators to help grow the economy and cut carbon. This fund complements the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, 35 of the 39 successful bids for Tranche 1 of which contained bus-related elements.

I have already witnessed good examples of joint working on bus services, including in Bristol and Oxford, and I continue to urge operators and local authorities to come together to better serve the needs of local bus passengers.

Buses: Exhaust Emissions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the potential effect on carbon emission levels of the Green Bus Fund in each year of the fund's operation. [87495]

Norman Baker: The Department estimates that the earlier two rounds of the Green Bus Fund, which will see around 540 low carbon buses operating in England by March 2012, will save around 12,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

The third round of the Green Bus Fund is expected to help fund more than 200 low carbon emission buses which will save around 5,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

Departmental Communications

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* press officers, *(b)* internal communications officers, *(c)* external communications officers, *(d)* communications strategy officers and *(e)* other positions with a communications remit were employed by (i) her Department, (ii) its agencies and (iii) each non-departmental public body sponsored by her Department on the most recent date for which figures are available. [84202]

Norman Baker: The number of full-time equivalent staff employed on communications activities on 30 September 2011 is provided in the following table. The NDPB figures requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost due to this information not being held centrally.

	(i) DFT central	*(ii) DFT agencies*
(a) Press office	14	21.6
(b) Internal communications	4.8	17.7
(c) External communications	10.1	27.4
(d) Communications strategy	8.5	17.8
(e) Other communicators	16.5	16.1

This is a 24% reduction in the full-time equivalent number of communicators from 2009-10.

Departmental Equality

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps her Department has taken to increase equality among its staff. [82958]

Norman Baker: In 2009 the Department developed a three-year equality action plan. This is reviewed annually. The plan reflects the civil service strategy for promoting equality and valuing diversity, and comprises the four themes of: behaviour and culture change; leadership and accountability; talent management; representation. The action plan can be found at:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/about/diversity/talent1/diversitystratplan.pdf

The Single Equality Duty arising from the Equality Act 2010 led to a review of equality outcomes, and in particular the equality data which we are required to publish. As a public authority the Department must have equality objectives in place by April 2012, and we are currently consulting stakeholders to that end. These broad objectives will reflect our strategic direction up to 2016.

Currently the Department supports staff networks for race, gender, disability and sexual orientation who are supported by and have regular meetings with senior management. Each of the Directors General is a Champion for a particular strand of diversity and the Permanent Secretary is the overall Diversity Champion. Equality issues are considered by the top management team, which reflects the importance the Department places on this topic.

Departmental Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were working in her Department on *(a)* 11 May 2010 and *(b)* 8 December 2011. [87348]

Norman Baker: On 11 May 2010, there were 19,198 employees working in the central Department and its seven Executive agencies. On 8 December 2011, there were 17,799 working in the central Department and its seven Executive agencies.

Of this total, there were 2,017 employees working in the central Department on 11 May 2010 and there were 1,696 employees working in the central Department on 8 December 2011.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 98WS, on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), what work her Department has carried out to ensure that services currently offered by regional DVLA offices will remain accessible to communities. [87478]

Mike Penning: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has investigated a range of options on alternative delivery channels for all services currently offered by DVLA regional offices. Decisions about which solutions will be taken forward will not be made until the results of the consultation exercise are available and agreed. Members of the public and communities are encouraged to make their views known through the consultation process.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Manpower

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many full-time equivalent staff are employed in each regional office of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [87489]

Mike Penning: The following table states how many full-time equivalent employees are employed in each regional office.

Location	*Total*
Aberdeen	8.6
Bangor	11.8
Beverley	13.7
Birmingham	44.1
Borehamwood	29.5
Bournemouth	51.9
Brighton	16.2
Bristol	20.3
Cardiff	31.4
Carlisle	9.8
Chelmsford	45.5
Chester	16.0
Dundee	10.7
Edinburgh	23.4
Exeter	32.6
Glasgow	62.7
Inverness	8.0
Ipswich	14.1
Leeds	47.6
Lincoln	15.1
Maidstone	26.0
Manchester	60.4
Newcastle	41.2
Northampton	48.1
Norwich	14.1
Nottingham	45.9
Oxford	8.6
Peterborough	22.8
Portsmouth	19.4
Preston	54.2

Location	Total
Reading	19.2
Sheffield	22.6
Shrewsbury	17.0
Sidcup	76.1
Stockton	18.7
Swansea	26.0
Truro	11.8
Wimbledon	33.8
Worcester lo	21.0
Grand total	1,099.9

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Redundancy

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 98WS, on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), what steps her Department plans to take to assist staff at regional DVLA offices to find alternative employment following implementation of the proposed transformation programme for the Agency. [87477]

Mike Penning: No decisions about closure have yet been made. If, following the consultation, a decision is made to close the local offices then the Department will seek to avoid compulsory redundancies wherever possible. Among the options we will explore include redeploying staff to other offices across the civil service; voluntary redundancy and job swaps with staff working elsewhere in the civil service who wish to leave under voluntary redundancy terms.

Driving Under Influence

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the relative standards of professional conduct of providers of drink-drive rehabilitation courses in *(a)* single provider and *(b)* multi-provider areas. [87769]

Mike Penning: The Driving Standards Agency's audits have shown that the current quality of drink-driver rehabilitation courses is variable with some providers failing to follow the guidance on running courses. The audits did not highlight any difference between the professional conduct of course providers when comparing single with multiple provider areas.

Driving Under Influence: Convictions

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking with the Ministry of Justice in respect of the sharing of data on drink-driving convictions between the police, courts and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [87494]

Mike Penning: My review of court notifications to the DVLA identified inconsistent and missing alcohol levels for some drink driving convictions. Immediate changes to IT systems and working practices have been put in place to address the problem. The DVLA, the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office continue to work together to obtain missing alcohol level data to ensure that anyone regarded as a high risk offender undergoes the necessary medical assessment.

Electric Vehicles

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to section 30 of the Coalition Agreement, what progress she has made in mandating a national recharging network for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. [87380]

Norman Baker: Through the Office for Low Emission Vehicles, we are working to establish a national recharging network, primarily by part funding the installation of recharging points delivered by the Plugged-In Places schemes.

Our strategy to deliver the necessary infrastructure is set out in "Making the Connection: the Plug-In Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy", published in June 2011, a copy of which is available in the House Libraries. I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer to the right hon. Member for Warley (Mr Spellar), on 28 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 649W.

Graham Hook

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* meetings (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in her Department had with Graham Hook during his employment with Interel Consulting UK. [87174]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), had one meeting with Graham Hook prior to his appointment as a special adviser. The special adviser to the previous Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), also met Graham Hook on a small number of occasions, and corresponded once. No other correspondence or meetings took place during his employment with Interel Consulting UK.

Great Western Railway Line: Electrification

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings Ministers and officials in her Department have had with Ministers and officials in the Welsh Government to discuss electrification of the Great Western Main Line since 1 March 2011; and on what dates. [86697]

Mrs Villiers: Departmental officials have had meetings on this subject with their colleagues from the Welsh Government on four occasions—on 14 September 2011 and 17 October 2011 in London and on the 24 November 2011 in Cardiff. Electrification was an agenda item at the High Level Forum between the DFT and Welsh Government Permanent Secretaries on 16 November 2011.

High Speed 2 Railway Line: Midlands

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has received route proposals from High Speed 2 Ltd for the legs from Birmingham to Leeds and Manchester; and if she will lay such proposals in the Library. [87508]

Justine Greening: Subject to my decisions on high speed rail in January 2012, HS2 Ltd will submit its advice on route and station options for Leeds, Manchester and Heathrow in March 2012. The Government will consider this advice before announcing our response later in 2012.

Large Goods Vehicles

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 260W, on large goods vehicles, which independent contractor will be monitoring the longer semi-trailers and heavy goods vehicles study. [87480]

Mike Penning: The Department has appointed Risk Solutions as the independent monitor for the high volume semi trailers trial.

Large Goods Vehicles: Fees and Charges

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to section 30 of the Coalition Agreement, what recent progress she has made in introducing a system of HGV road user charging. [87499]

Mike Penning: We are developing proposals for a scheme of HGV road user charging and intend to consult in the new year.

Level Crossings

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many user worked railway crossings are in use; and how many have *(a)* closed and *(b)* been converted to automatic barriers in the last 20 years. [87662]

Mrs Villiers: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Management of level crossings is an operational matter for the relevant railway infrastructure manager, which for the majority of Britain's railway system is Network Rail. As part of their safety management system, Network Rail assess risks at level crossings and consider whether closure or upgrading of protection is appropriate.

Level Crossings: Accidents

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* road traffic accidents and *(b)* fatalities have been reported at user worked railway crossings in the last 10 years. [87661]

Mrs Villiers: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Safety Statistics for Railways are available on the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) website at:

www.rssb.co.uk

In addition, the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), as the independent health and safety regulator of Britain's railways, reports annually on safety performance, including at level crossings. The hon. Member may wish to contact the ORR for further information at the following address:

Office of Rail Regulation
One Kemble Street
London
WC2B 4AN

Members: Correspondence

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to respond to the letters of *(a)* 19 July 2011, *(b)* 13 September 2011 and *(c)* 2 November 2011 from the hon. Member for Weaver Vale on behalf of WSD Lamb of Tall Security Print Ltd. [85034]

Mrs Villiers: I replied to my hon. Friend on 20 December 2011 in connection with his letters on behalf of WSD Lamb of Tall Security Print Ltd, with my apologies for the delay.

Network Rail

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with Network Rail about further redoubling of the Oxford to Hereford railway line. [86938]

Mrs Villiers: There have been no recent discussions. The rail industry considers that the recently completed 20 miles of track redoubling on the Oxford to Evesham section of the Hereford route provides the performance improvements which are the highest priority. It has not proposed forward further redoubling for consideration in its investment plan for 2014 to 2019.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to section 30 of the Coalition Agreement, what progress she has made in increasing the accountability of Network Rail to its customers. [87379]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are committed to increasing the accountability of Network Rail and will publish a strategy for reform in the rail industry early in 2012.

Office of Rail Regulation

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to section 30 of the Coalition Agreement, what progress she has made in reforming the Office of Rail Regulation to better represent the interests of passengers. [87503]

Mrs Villiers: The Government and the Office of Rail Regulation will shortly consult on the scope and case for transferring certain powers and functions relating to the protection of passenger interests from the Department for Transport to the regulator.

Railways: Fares

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has any plans to use the consumer prices index as a measure for the change in regulated rail fares in future. [86696]

Mrs Villiers: We have no plans to use the consumer prices index as a replacement for the retail prices index in the cap on regulated fares.

Railways: Information Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if her Department will take steps to encourage train companies to improve their communication with passengers on *(a)* overcrowding and *(b)* delays; and if she will make a statement. [87148]

Norman Baker: The Department supports the extensive programme of work being undertaken by the rail industry to improve passenger information during disruption. The issue is regularly discussed at meetings between Ministers and senior industry figures.

In addition, we welcome the Office of Rail Regulation's announcement of its intention to make adequate passenger communication a licence condition for train operating companies.

Railways: Overcrowding

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to reduce overcrowding on *(a)* commuter trains and *(b)* railway platforms in cities; and if she will make a statement. [87191]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have a programme to deliver additional rail carriages, addressing concerns about overcrowding. Network Rail is funded to enlarge many platforms and stations as part of this programme. Over the last year we have signed five agreements with train operators to deliver extra peak capacity for the cities of Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield. This capacity is now being delivered.

Railways: Snow and Ice

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the ability of the major train operators to minimise disruption caused by bad weather; and if she will make a statement. [87149]

Norman Baker: I meet regularly with senior industry representatives to review performance issues, and these discussions include the industry's preparedness to minimise disruption caused by severe weather. This includes ensuring that its plans take account of the lessons learnt from the last two winters and other weather-related incidents. The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), has also recently visited a rail depot in Tonbridge to see some of the winter preparations that the rail industry is putting in place.

Train operators have put in place extensive contingency and resilience plans to overcome weather disruption problems, including improved passenger communication strategies; development of additional contingency timetables for service operations under different weather scenarios; and a range of modifications to train fleets to improve resilience and address problems previously encountered. In addition, Network Rail has implemented a programme of measures including installation of heating elements to the third rail at key locations and expansion of its fleet of snow clearance and ice treatment trains.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many suppliers received renewable transport fuel certificates in each year since their introduction; and how many litres of biofuel each supplier produced in those years. [87130]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* In the year that the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) was introduced, 2008-09, 53 suppliers received renewable transport fuel certificates and 1,283 million litres of biofuel was supplied for road transport. In 2009-10, those figures were 52 suppliers and 1,568 million litres of fuel. Provisional figures for 2010-11 suggest that 1,440 million litres of biofuel were supplied by 45 companies.

It should be noted that the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007 (as amended) includes a requirement to exclude volumes of relevant hydrocarbon oil or renewable transport fuel which has been notified by a particular supplier to the administrator, with the clear purpose of protecting commercial confidentiality. We consider information regarding the volume of fuel supplied by individual suppliers to be commercially sensitive.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of renewable transport fuel her Department estimates will come from *(a)* biofuels, *(b)* electrically powered surface transport and *(c)* other renewable sources in each year between 2011 and 2020. [87488]

Norman Baker: Renewable transport fuel includes biofuels such as bioethanol, biodiesel and biomethane as well as other renewable fuels such as renewable hydrogen. Electrically powered surface transport is a mode of transport, not a fuel. However, use of renewable electricity in road vehicles can be counted towards renewable energy targets.

The renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) level is currently 4% for 2011-12 and increases by 0.5% each year until it reaches 5% in 2013-14. This obligation is met through the supply of biofuel.

Given uncertainties over the sustainability of all biofuels and the best deployment across sectors we have not, at this stage, amended the RTFO biofuel supply targets to increase beyond the 5% target that will be required from 2013-14. The Secretary of State for Transport is obliged under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (Amendment) Order 2011 to come forward with proposals for measures to ensure delivery of the transport requirements of the renewable energy directive for the period 2014 to 2020 at a later date.

Rescue Services: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the implications for Northern Ireland of the planned changes to the search and rescue helicopter service. [86055]

Mike Penning: Northern Ireland will still be covered by helicopters based on the UK mainland and Scottish

Islands, as at present. Incidents will continue to be responded to within the agreed national response requirements.

The UK tasking authority will continue to work with other nations' tasking authorities, including the Republic of Ireland, to provide assistance when it is required. This is in line with existing international agreements.

Roads: Safety

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to section 30 of the Coalition Agreement, what progress she has made in bringing forward proposals to promote road safety. [87498]

Mike Penning: By transferring the road safety grant to the revenue support grant, we have given local authorities greater flexibility to implement the local transport and road safety measures they and their local communities consider are needed. Most local authorities have published information about speed cameras, to improve transparency, following a Government announcement in June 2011.

We are switching to more effective ways of making our roads safer, having published a strategic framework for road safety in May 2011. This includes action to enable better enforcement against careless and drunk drivers, improvements to education and more training.

The authorisation of drug screening technology depends on the type approval of individual devices by the Secretary of State for the Home Department. This is given only following operational and laboratory tests of the devices against the type approval specification. Operational tests have been completed. New arrangements are required for the laboratory tests and the Home Office is putting these into place as quickly as technically possible.

Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what rolling stock her Department plans to cascade from the Thameslink project to other parts of the rail network; on what dates such cascades will occur; and what changes in capacity will arise from each such cascade. [87485]

Mrs Villiers: The redeployment of rolling stock freed up by new trains introduced as part of the Thameslink Programme is dependent on a number of factors, including the exact timings of electrification programmes and future negotiations between train operators and rolling stock leasing companies. Approximately 400 existing vehicles are expected to be available for redeployment in the period from 2015 to 2018.

Severn River Crossing: Tolls

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with Welsh Government Ministers on the Severn crossing tolls. [87822]

Mike Penning: Ministers have had no discussions with their Welsh counterparts on tolls at the Severn crossing.

Shipping: Training

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes her Department has proposed to the General Approach on a Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2008/106/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the minimum level of training of seafarers changes. [87491]

Mike Penning: Following the publication of the proposed directive in September, the UK was an active participant in the Council working group convened to examine the text.

As a result of our negotiations we secured amendments to the text to address our concerns relating to the provisions on data transfer, the timeline for transposition and the role of member states in future decision-making.

Having secured these improvements, the UK was able to agree to the proposal presented for a General Approach at Transport Council on 12 December.

Siemens

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Thameslink rolling stock contract, what recent assessment she has made of Siemens plc's credit rating; and whether her Department holds information on Siemens plc's credit rating in each month since June 2011. [R] [86034]

Mrs Villiers: The Department has relied on publically available information from Moody's and Standard and Poor's.

Moody's Investors Service has assigned Siemens plc an A1 credit rating since November 2007. Standard and Poor's has assigned them an A+ credit rating since June 2009.

Sikhs

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will have discussions with the Sikh Council UK and Sikh Federation (UK) on policy matters relating to the Sikh community. [87194]

Mrs Villiers: My Department regularly engages with many different organisations on policy matters and consults with bodies representing the faith communities where there are relevant issues.

Transport: EU Action

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proposals her Department has made to the European Commission on the draft Regulation amending Regulation 3821/85 on recording equipment in road transport and regulation 561/2006. [87492]

Mike Penning: The Department has not made proposals to the European Commission on the draft regulation. However the Department has been active in negotiations on the dossier, which began in September 2011. At the Transport Council on 12 December a partial general approach was agreed.

Transport: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the National Infrastructure Plan 2011, what the *(a)* total planned public expenditure and *(b)* estimated month and year of completion are for the (i) Coventry-Nuneaton rail upgrade, (ii) Chester Road (Birmingham), (iii) Cambourne-Poole-Redruth transport package, (iv) Beverly integrated transport plan and (v) Bath transportation package. [87728]

Norman Baker: The information requested is as follows:

Scheme	*Planned total public expenditure (£ million)*	*Estimated completion date*
Coventry-Nuneaton rail upgrade	18.6	December 2013
Chester Road (Birmingham)	10.3	December 2014
Camborne-Poole-Redruth transport package	26.0	October 2014
Beverley integrated transport plan	27.3	December 2014
Bath Transportation package	28.2	October 2014

The total public expenditure figures include the planned contributions from the Department for Transport, the local authority promoters and any other public sector bodies.

Funding for these schemes was announced on 14 December 2011. Details of these and the other local authority major transport schemes announced on the same day are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/local-major-transport-scheme-decisions

Scheme costs on the published table may include private sector contributions and therefore may not match the above figures.

Transport: Policy

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to section 30 of the Coalition Agreement, what progress she has made in reforming the way decisions are made on which transport projects to prioritise. [87378]

Justine Greening: My predecessor as Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), laid a written ministerial statement in the House on 27 April 2011 reporting the conclusions of the Department's decision making review. This set out reforms to the way transport projects are assessed, and funding prioritisation decisions are made, so that the benefits of low carbon proposals are fully recognised. The Department now uses the five case model to inform decision-making, which assesses projects' strategic, economic, financial, commercial and management cases.

Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to section 30 of the Coalition Agreement, what recent progress she has made in supporting sustainable travel initiatives. [87502]

Norman Baker: On 5 July 2011, I announced that the Department was awarding £155.5 million through the £560 million Local Sustainable Transport Fund to support authorities in delivering local economic growth while cutting carbon emissions from transport. 39 projects, to be delivered by 37 local authorities, have been awarded funding for 2011-15 (all projects are for £5 million or less). Successful projects include a variety of measures such as smart ticketing, the promotion of infrastructure for electric vehicles, bus and rail improvement measures along with infrastructure improvements for cycling and walking, including £11 million for Bikeability training, and the promotion of car clubs.

On 3 August 2011, the Department shortlisted 13 authorities to prepare a detailed business case for a Large Project proposal (of between £5 million and £50 million) to be submitted to the Department by 20 December 2011. By 24 February 2012, the Department will receive 55 further bids for small projects. We will announce decisions on all these proposed projects in early summer 2012.

Recently, the Department has also announced an extra £90 million of funding for buses, including the £50 million Better Bus Areas initiative, an extra £10 million for Community Transport, £20 million for the Green Bus Fund and £10 million to make London buses greener.

A full list of decisions to date is available on the DFT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/local-sustainable-transport-fund-guidance-on-the-application-process

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

West Lothian Question

4. **Mark Lancaster:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to establish a commission to consider the West Lothian question. [87254]

Mr Harper: I updated the House on progress on this issue by written ministerial statement on 8 September 2011, *Official Report*, column 27WS. Since then we have been in consultation with the House authorities on how the commission can best address the relevant issues on the business and procedures of this House on how the commission can best address this issue. It is my intention for the commission to commence its work in February 2012 to report by the end of the next Session, in spring 2013. I will make a further statement on the detail of the commission in the new year.

House of Lords Reform

7. **Mr Streeter:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent progress he has made on reforming the House of Lords; and if he will make a statement. [87257]

14. **Dr Poulter:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent progress he has made on reforming the House of Lords; and if he will make a statement. [87264]

Mr Harper: I refer my hon. Friends to the answer the Deputy Prime Minister gave the hon. Member for Southport (John Pugh), at oral questions earlier today.

Electoral Register

9. **Bob Blackman:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register. [87259]

12. **Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register. [87262]

Mr Harper: The Government have funded the Electoral Commission to carry out research into the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register. The commission's report, which was published last week, was the first of its kind in over a decade. It showed that as of April 2011, the register was around 85% accurate, and as of December 2010, was 85% to 87% complete, with around 6 million electors missing from the register.

These findings show that now more than ever it is important that we take steps to improve registration as part of the move to individual registration, including looking at how we can most effectively reach those groups most likely to be missing from the register and modernise the electoral registration system.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 14 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 532W, on electoral register, whether meetings in an official capacity could have taken place that were not recorded. [85251]

Mr Harper: Details of all Ministers' meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis. Information for the period 13 May 2010 to 30 June 2011 can be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-external-organisations-april-june

Statutory Register of Lobbyists

11. **Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to bring forward proposals for a statutory register of lobbyists. [87261]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Sefton Central (Bill Esterson), at oral questions earlier today.

Cost of Elections

13. **Steve McCabe:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* elections for police and crime commissioners, *(b)* referendums for elected mayors and *(c)* the work of the Boundary Commission. [87263]

Mr Harper: The Government currently estimates that the cost of:

elections for police and crime commissioners in November 2012 will be up to £75 million;

the cost of referendums for elected mayors will be £2.5 million; and

the costs to the four Boundary Commissions of undertaking a boundary review under the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 is £11.9 million.

Lobbying

15. **Mr McKenzie:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had on the definition of lobbying. [87265]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Saffron Walden (Sir Alan Haselhurst), at oral questions earlier today.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Aircraft Carriers

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government have made representations to the Russian Government about reports of waste being disposed into the sea off the Scottish coast by the Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov. [87582]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not made representations to the Russian Government about this issue. However, the HMS York contacted the Russian aircraft carrier, the Admiral Kuznetsov, anchored outside British territorial waters, to ask that no further waste be disposed into the sea. The Admiral Kuznetsov agreed with this request.

Anguilla: Politics and Government

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received in respect of changing of the financial and economic permanent secretaries in Anguilla; and if he will make a statement. [87645]

Mr Bellingham: The Chief Minister of Anguilla and his team raised this issue with me during my meeting with him on 22 November 2011. This was also raised during the Overseas Territories Consultative Council from 23-24 November. The Department has received questions about this from the UK Representative for Anguilla and a number of other persons including members of this House.

Responsibility for ensuring that the Anguilla Public Service is appropriately staffed and run has been delegated by the Governor to the Deputy Governor, who is the most senior member of the Public Service. The British Government have no direct responsibility for making Anguillan Public Service appointments.

The transfer of portfolios among permanent secretaries is good practice and helps to ensure that they remain independent and are able to offer non-partisan advice. In the current case, I understand that the Chief Minister, the Executive Council and the Anguilla Public Service Commission were consulted about the proposed changes. Appointment decisions take into account individuals' skills and experience and the wider need to develop as leaders and strategic thinkers.

The Governor of Anguilla and the Chief Minister are in contact on this issue.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the reasons are for changing the financial and economic permanent secretaries in Anguilla. [87646]

Mr Bellingham: I refer the hon. Member to the Minister of State, my noble Friend the right hon. Lord Howell of Guildford's answer of 11 August 2011, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column WA 454, to the noble Lord Jones of Cheltenham. I also wrote to the hon. Lady on 22 August this year in response to her e-mail of 22 July answering her questions on this issue.

Belarus: Human Rights

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the human rights situation in Belarus. [87209]

Mr Lidington: There have been no further releases of political prisoners since 1 October and the eight who remain reportedly suffer serious mistreatment. The UK is particularly concerned about the health and welfare of Dmitrii Bondarenko, Zmitser Dashkevich, Andrei Sannikov and Mikolai Statkevich. I released a press statement on 24 November expressing my concern about the sentencing to more than four years imprisonment of respected human rights defender Ales Bialiatski. in a tax evasion trial that international observers described as politically motivated.

Separately, on 30 November, a Minsk court sentenced Dzmitry Kanavalaw and Uladzislaw Kavalyow to death for carrying out the bombing of the Minsk Metro in April 2011. Again, international observers have raised doubts over the standard of evidence and conduct of the trial. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Permanent Under-Secretary of State summoned the Belarusian ambassador on 12 December about this case; the British ambassador also raised it formally in Minsk on 9 December.

Recent legislative changes have strengthened the role of the secret police and further restricted freedom of assembly. Individuals can now face a jail sentence for receiving financial assistance from overseas and the definition of treason, a capital offence, has also been dramatically widened. Senior officials have expressed the UK's deep concern about this to the Belarusian ambassador and I released a press statement on 19 October.

The UK will continue to press for real and lasting democratic reform in Belarus including the release and rehabilitation of all political prisoners. We will also push the EU to do more, particularly on sanctions.

Congo: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what observers the UK sent to the recent elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [87772]

Mr Bellingham: To ensure that the elections were monitored appropriately, we worked with internationally-recognised monitoring experts in the EU and the Carter Center to ensure that a high-quality network of observers was in the country before, during and after the election. There were five British participants in the EU observation mission plus 18 British participants in the European Network for Central Africa (EURAC) mission. Two of the participants in the EURAC mission are members of the Great Lakes All Party Parliamentary Group: the hon. Member for Wrexham (Ian Lucas) and Lord McConnell. We also funded a UK elections expert from Electoral Reform International Services to accompany the Southern African Development Community non-government organisation mission. Finally, the British embassy in Kinshasa fielded a team of 12 accredited observers.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK has made to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the conduct of recent elections in that country. [87778]

Mr Bellingham: In the run up to and throughout the election process, we have engaged closely with the Democratic Republic of Congo authorities on the conduct of the elections.

In my 9 December 2011 statement, I said that I remained concerned by the reports of irregularities both in the run up to and throughout the process.

The British ambassador in Kinshasa has lobbied Prime Minister Muzito, advisers to President Kabila, the Secretary General of the majority People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy party, and Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante President Mulunda, to stress the need for a credible investigation into the presidential results process, urgent measures to improve the legislative elections results process (which is now under way, with results due on 13 January) and for lessons to be learned before the provincial elections, due in 2012. We have also stressed that the Supreme Court needs to be visibly neutral through the elections process.

Croatia: Elections

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of alleged election fraud in the recent Croatian election. [87163]

Mr Lidington: We followed the Croatia elections closely. Some four or five appeals were lodged but subsequently dismissed by the Electoral Commission and the Constitutional Court. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) observer mission declared the elections democratic, and made no reference to election fraud in their conclusions. While the mission recommended technical improvements to the electoral process, acknowledged by the head of the Croatian Electoral Commission, the leader of the ODIHR mission saw no evidence in the elections to suggest that Croatia was not ready to join the EU.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will have discussions with Council of Europe election monitors on alleged irregularities in the recent Croatian elections. [87164]

Mr Lidington: The Council of Europe did not send an observer mission to Croatia during the recent elections. However, international observers from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) observer mission as well as local non-governmental organisations reported that the elections were democratic. There was no reference to election fraud in the conclusions of the ODIHR mission and no appeals have been launched against the result.

Croatia: EU Enlargement

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of Croatia's readiness to join the EU. [87206]

Mr Lidington: On the basis of the clear progress already achieved by Croatia, backed up by the safeguards and additional pre-accession monitoring arrangements we secured in the final weeks of negotiations, the UK agreed the closure of accession negotiations on 30 June. Since then Croatia has continued to make progress in implementing the necessary reforms. The 5 December General Affairs Council and the 9 December European Council endorsed the Commission's assessment in its 12 October Progress Report on Croatia and the updated monitoring tables submitted to the Council on 28 October, that Croatia has reached a high level of preparedness for membership, and continues to make substantial progress in all areas. We expect Croatia to continue this momentum and to be in full alignment with the acquis before joining the EU in July 2013.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [86999]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office cannot separate out the cost of food purchased through its UK food and catering services from other elements of the service or from wider official hospitality expenses without incurring disproportionate cost.

It would also incur disproportionate cost to source the data from our network of 260 overseas posts as this information is held locally.

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's UK-based staff are serving in overseas postings; and how many of them have completed the extensive level language qualification which is linked to additional remuneration. [86983]

Mr Bellingham *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* Of our approximately 1,900 UK-based staff currently serving overseas, approximately 110 have a speaker requirement at extensive level, with approximately 580 more having a speaker requirement at other levels. The requirement for most extensive slots overseas is for officers to arrive in post with operational level skills, and then reach extensive after a period of time at post. As of 15 December 2011, approximately 40 staff are currently in receipt of allowances for having qualifications at extensive level. Other staff in extensive speaker slot positions will become eligible for these allowances during their postings when they have successfully taken the extensive exam, or once they have re-qualified if their exam pass date was more than five years ago.

Departmental Press Releases

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2011, *Official Report,* column 457W, on departmental press releases, what assessment he has made of whether the provision of detailed extracts from his 16 November 2011 speech to the media for reporting prior to its delivery conferred any benefit to the *(a)* Government and *(b)* public interest which would not have been conferred by reporting the speech after its delivery. [86862]

Mr Lidington *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* The provision of extracts proved beneficial because it gave the media, and therefore the public, more time to consider the issues raised in the speech.

Embassies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many diplomatic posts his Department has *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in the last five years; and whether it plans to open any posts in 2012. [84581]

Mr Lidington: In his statement to the House on 11 May 2011, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), set out the Government's commitment not to close any sovereign UK posts overseas in the lifetime of the current Parliament; to retain all 140 existing British embassies and High Commissions, and to open up to six new embassies and seven new Consulates General. This is part of a drive to expand and strengthen Britain's diplomatic network, particularly in the fastest growing parts of the world.

No embassies have therefore been closed since May 2010. We have opened a new embassy in Juba, South Sudan. We have upgraded the UK's representation in Cote d'Ivoire to a full embassy. A fully accredited ambassador will take up position in spring 2012. We have opened a new consulate in Recife, Brazil. In 2012 we plan to open new embassies in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; San Salvador, El Salvador and, when local circumstances permit, Madagascar and Somalia. The upgrading of the trade office in Calgary to a full British Consulate General in 2012 has also been announced.

This expansion of the diplomatic network is being funded by withdrawing diplomatic staff from some subordinate posts in Europe, while retaining UK Trade and Investment and consular staff in many cases and not closing any sovereign posts. Since May 2010, the British Consulates in Lille, France; Venice and Florence, Italy have closed. Other savings will also be found as we reduce over time our diplomatic footprint in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Between 2006 and May 2010, six embassies and High Commission offices and eight British Consulate Generals and Consulates were closed. Details are set out in the following table.

Period	*Country*	*Post name*	*Status*	*Closed*
2004-05	Cameroon	Douala	BC	1
2004-05	Portugal	Oporto	BC	1

Period	Country	Post name	Status	Closed
2005-06	Lesotho	Maseru	BHC	1
2005-06	Madagascar	Antananarivo	Embassy	1
2005-06	Swaziland	Mbabane	BHC	1
2005-06	Cote d'Ivoire	Abidjan	Embassy	1
2005-06	Bahamas	Nassau	BHC	1
2005-06	Paraguay	Asuncion	Embassy	1
2005-06	USA	Dallas	BC	1
2005-06	USA	San Juan (Puerto Rico)	BC	1
2005-06	Japan	Fukuoka	BC	1
2005-06	Vanuatu	Port Vila	BHC	1
2005-06	Germany	Frankfurt	BCG	1
2005-06	Germany	Stuttgart	BCG	1
2005-06	Yemen	Aden	BCG	1
2005	Kiribati	Tarawa	BHC	1
2005-06	Tonga	Nuku'alofa	BHC	1
2005	Haiti	Port au Prince	BCG	1
2006-07	Australia	Adelaide	BC	1
2006-07	East Timor	Dili	Embassy	1
2006-07	Germany	Hamburg	BCG	1
2006-07	Sweden	Gothenberg	BCG	1
2006-07	USA	Seattle	BC	1
2011	Italy	Venice	BCG	—
2010	Switzerland	Geneva	BCG	—

In 2007, three High Commission offices (Kingstown. St Vincent and the Grenadines) and the Consulate in Nagoya, Japan were closed.

In 2008, two High Commission offices (St John's, Antigua and St George's, Grenada) were closed.

The Consulate General in Lille closed in August 2011.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which overseas countries no representative of the Government is in residence. [84582]

Mr Lidington: While some embassies and high commissions are responsible for countries where there is no British representation, British Missions are not accredited. Heads of Mission, ambassadors and high commissioners are accredited. A number of Heads of Missions hold the title of Her Majesty's Non-Resident Ambassador/High Commissioner. A full list is provided.

Country/territory	Location	Head of Mission resident in:
Andorra	Andorra La Vella	Madrid, Spain
Antigua and Barbuda	St John's	Bridgetown, Barbados
Bahamas	Nassau	Kingston, Jamaica
Benin	Porto-Novo	Accra, Ghana
Bhutan	Thimphu	New Delhi, India
Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou	Accra, Ghana
Burundi	Bujumbura	Kigali, Rwanda
Cape Verde	Praia	Dakar, Senegal
Central African Republic	Bangui	Yaoundé, Cameroon
Chad	N'Djamena	Yaoundé, Cameroon
Comoros	Moroni	Port Louis, Mauritius
Congo (republic of)	Brazzaville	Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
Cote d'Ivoire	Abidjan	Accra, Ghana
Djibouti	Djibouti	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Dominica, Commonwealth of	Roseau	Bridgetown, Barbados
El Salvador	San Salvador	Guatemala City, Guatemala
Equatorial Guinea	Malabo	Yaoundé, Cameroon
Gabon	Libreville	Yaoundé, Cameroon
Grenada	Saint George's	Bridgetown, Barbados
Guinea Bissau	Bissau	Dakar, Senegal
Haiti	Port au Prince	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Holy See	—	British Embassy to the Holy See, located in Rome
Honduras	Tegucigalpa	Guatemala City, Guatemala
Kiribati	Tarawa	Suva, Fiji
Laos	Vientiane	Bangkok, Thailand
Lesotho	Maseru	Pretoria, South Africa
Liberia	Monrovia	Freetown, Sierra Leone
Liechtenstein	Vaduz	Berne, Switzerland
Madagascar	Antananarivo	Port Louis
Maldives	Male	Colombo, Sri Lanka
Marshall Islands	Majuro	Manila, the Philippines
Mauritania	Nouakchott	Rabat, Morocco
Micronesia, Federated States of	Palikir	Manila, the Philippines
Monaco	Monaco	Paris, France
Nauru	Yaren	Suva, Fiji
Nicaragua	Managua	San Jose, Costa Rica
Niger	Niamey	Bamako, Mali
Palau	Melekeok	Manila, the Philippines
Paraguay	Asuncion	Buenos Aires, Argentina
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Basseterre	Bridgetown, Barbados
Saint Lucia	Castries	Bridgetown, Barbados
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Kingstown	Bridgetown, Barbados
Samoa	Apia	Wellington, New Zealand
San Marino	San Marino	Rome, Italy
São Tomé and Principe	São Tomé	Luanda, Angola
Somalia	Mogadishu	Nairobi, Kenya
Suriname	Paramaribo	Georgetown, Guyana
Swaziland	Mbabane	Pretoria, South Africa
Timor-Leste	Dili	Jakarta, Indonesia
Togo	Lome	Accra, Ghana
Tonga	Nuku'alofa	Suva, Fiji
Tuvalu	Funafuti	Suva, Fiji
Vanuatu	Port-Vila	Suva, Fiji

EU Accession

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what regard the Government will have to meeting the Copenhagen criteria when determining their policy on future applications for membership of the EU; and if he will make a statement. [87467]

Mr Lidington: The Copenhagen criteria rightly remain at the heart of the EU enlargement process. Any European country which meets the criteria should be eligible to join. The 5 December General Affairs Council and 9 December European Council conclusions reaffirmed the principle that a country's progress against these criteria should dictate the pace of the enlargement process.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the accession to the EU of *(a)* Iceland, *(b)* the Republic of Serbia, *(c)* Croatia, *(d)* Montenegro, *(e)*

the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, *(f)* Albania, *(g)* Bosnia-Herzegovina and *(h)* Turkey. [87468]

Mr Lidington: The Government are a strong supporter of EU enlargement which helps create stability, security and prosperity across Europe. Any European country that wishes to join the EU and meets the necessary criteria should be able to do so. Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, Macedonia and Turkey are candidate countries. Croatia is the furthest advanced candidate country and, following signature of its Accession Treaty, is expected to join the EU on 1 July 2013. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia are pre-candidate countries. The UK is committed to the future of all the countries of the Western Balkans, Turkey and Iceland being in the EU, once the necessary conditions have been met. The Government believe that further EU enlargement depends on countries meeting the fair and rigorous accession criteria. Each case will be treated on its own merits.

Iran: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent meetings his Department has had with the Government of Iran; and what was discussed. [87771]

Alistair Burt: I summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires on 30 November 2011 to express outrage at the invasion of our embassy compounds in Tehran and to notify him that all Iranian diplomats were to be expelled from the UK and the Iranian embassy closed. Since then there has been only one meeting between the Iranian Representative to the International Maritime Organisation in London and officials of the FCO's Protocol Directorate to discuss administrative arrangements for the closed Iranian embassy.

We have not severed diplomatic relations with Iran and will maintain a minimal dialogue over issues of concern such as Iran's nuclear programme and its human rights record.

Japan Tobacco International

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have received hospitality from Japan Tobacco International since May 2010. [87599]

Mr Lidington: Details of hospitality in respect of Ministers and special advisers are published quarterly on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website at:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/transparency-and-data1/hospitality/

Russia: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Russia on the conduct of recent elections in that country; and if he will make a statement. [87777]

Mr Lidington: As I made clear in my statement of 6 December, we have concerns about alleged violations in the Duma elections and have highlighted the need for a rapid and transparent investigation. We note President Medvedev's undertaking to do so. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), raised the conduct of the elections with Foreign Minister Lavrov on 7 December. I also raised this issue with the Russian ambassador in a meeting on 14 December.

As the Prime Minister said in Moscow in September, strengthening the rule of law and democracy is essential to Russia's stability and prosperity. That must include open and fair elections and protecting the right to peaceful protest.

Shaker Aamer

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 606W, on Shaker Aamer, when Mr Aamer's case was last raised at official level with the US authorities; and when he next plans to raise it at *(a)* official and *(b)* Ministerial level. [87536]

Alistair Burt: Since the answer of 12 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 606W, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has again raised Mr Aamer's case with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during his visit to Washington on 12 December. UK and US officials hold regular discussions on Mr Aamer's case, both in London and from the British embassy in Washington, most recently on 6 December. As stated in the previous answer, the Government remains committed to securing Mr Aamer's release and return to the UK and, again, we will continue to raise his case with the United States Government at both official and ministerial levels when appropriate opportunities arise. Nevertheless, it is important to be clear that his release remains a decision for the United States Government to make.

Syria: Asylum

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on *(a)* the number of Syrian refugees arriving in Turkey and *(b)* provisions being made for such refugees; and if he will make a statement. [86873]

Mr Lidington: According to the Turkish Government, the highest number of refugees recorded reached 20,000 in June. The Turkish Government and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) have now reported that there are 8,400 refugees remaining.

The UNHCR and Turkish Red Crescent provide tents, sleeping mats, hot meals and education (with Arabic curriculum play areas) and medical care.

Syria: Human Rights

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Syria on human rights issues in that country. [87770]

Alistair Burt: We make clear in our contacts with the Syrian regime our deep concerns about ongoing human rights abuses in Syria.

We continue to raise human rights in Syria internationally including through the EU. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) welcomed the strong action taken by the UN Human Rights Council at an unprecedented third Special Session on the human rights situation in Syria, which supports the Arab League's efforts to end the bloodshed in Syria and established a special rapporteur to ensure that independent monitoring of the situation continues. The Foreign Secretary said that we will continue to do all we can to bring an immediate end to the violence.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many adults aged 24 years and over who took a Level 3 or higher qualification went on to attend university in each of the last three years. [86571]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 13 December 2011]:* The Department does not hold information on adults aged 24 years and over who took a Level 3 or higher qualification and then went on to attend university. Information on the level of highest qualification held on entry to higher education is shown in the following table, for English-domiciled entrants aged 24 or over to UK higher education institutions. Figures are provided for the academic years 2007/08 to 2009/10. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

English-domiciled entrants[1] aged 24 or over by level of highest qualification on entry. UK higher education institutions, academic years 2007/08 to 2009/10

	Academic year		
Level of highest qualification on entry	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Level 4 or above[2]	230,250	260,080	270,355
Level 3[3]	54,430	58,675	63,325
Total level 3 or above	284,680	318,755	333,675
Other[4]	50,390	51,720	44,950
Total with known highest qualification on entry	335,075	370,475	378,625

[1] Covers entrants to full-time and part-time postgraduate and undergraduate courses.
[2] Covers postgraduate, undergraduate and professional qualifications, foundation courses at higher education level and National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) at Level 4 or above.
[3] Covers A Levels, International Baccalaureate, Ordinary National Diploma/Certificates, higher education access courses, foundation courses at further education level and NVQs at level 3.
[4] Covers Level 2 qualifications and below, accredited prior learning, advanced modern apprenticeships and no formal qualifications.
Note:
Figures in this table are on a HESA Standard Registration Population (SRP) basis and are rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Billing

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the *(a)* efficacy and *(b)* applicability to the UK of limiting payment periods between companies to 60 days as required by the French loi de modernisation de l'économie 2008. [86064]

Mr Prisk: This Government have made clear their objective of challenging the long-standing culture of late payment, which persists across all sectors of the economy and across businesses of all sizes, and we have supported a multi-faceted strategy for improving business cash flow alongside the UK's leading business and finance organisations.

We continue to monitor payment across the economy and will not rule out any measures which have the support of the business community in the UK. However, there has been long-standing and widespread opposition from UK business to Government intervention in contractual freedoms, including on payment terms. I understand that the French legislation allows sectors to apply for exemption and that this has been utilised by a large number of sectors.

The recast EU directive on combating late payment in commercial transactions provides a standard for payment terms in that

"member states shall ensure that the period for payment fixed in the contract does not exceed 60 calendar days, unless otherwise expressly agreed in the contract and provided it is not grossly unfair to the creditor."

As part of the process for transposing the recast directive, we will be consulting with those affected on this point and other potential changes to current UK legislation. The recast directive is largely based upon existing UK legislation and experience.

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* suppliers on (i) the introduction of 60 day maximum payment terms between companies and (ii) mandatory disclosure of average payment terms. [86066]

Mr Prisk: There has been long-standing and widespread opposition from UK business to Government intervention on contractual freedoms of this nature and it remains the case that the best means of ensuring prompt payment is to agree terms in advance of supply. Evidence suggests that over half of UK transactions take place with no pre-agreed terms and that only one in 10 suppliers regularly credit checks customers.

Government are supporting business to manage cash flow by ensuring they pay their own bills on time, by encouraging big business to pay according to agreed terms through the prompt payment code at:

www.promptpaymentcode.org.uk/

and by supporting businesses to better manage customer relationships through the Institute of Credit Management's Managing Cash Flow Guides at:

www.creditmanagement.org.uk/bisguides.htm

There have been over 250,000 downloads of the Managing Cash Flow Guides to date.

On 10 November, Government launched a Finance Fitness campaign to increase business awareness of the advice and information available to them from both Government and private sector providers. The campaign will focus upon managing cash to end January 2012, on choosing and accessing finance in February 2012 and on finance for growth in March 2012.

Business

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage multi-national manufacturers to make long-term investments in the UK. [87421]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment works closely with BIS to champion UK strength and sophistication in manufacturing to global investors, providing tailored support to business. In 2010/11 the UK attracted 1,434 foreign direct investment projects, of which 210 (15%) were manufacturing projects. The Government's Plan for Growth sets out actions to improve the business environment for UK-based manufacturers, and to encourage new inward investment. Business support measures on tax, planning and regulation build investor confidence, making the UK a more attractive destination for overseas manufacturers.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to his letter to all hon. Members of 6 December 2011 on the Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative, (1) whether new entrants to supply chains will be eligible for funding; and what steps his Department plans to take to assess the eligibility of such firms; [87427]

(2) what steps his Department will take to discuss the initiative with potential applicants; how he plans to identify such firms; and if he will make a statement; [87428]

(3) what his policy is on clawback of monies granted where criteria are not met; [87429]

(4) what discussions he has had with the Department for Energy and Climate Change on the *(a)* initial dialogue with relevant firms and sectors, *(b)* assessment of bids and *(c)* monitoring of successful bids; and if he will make a statement; [87430]

(5) whether firms can successfully apply for funding without approval from *(a)* local economic partnerships and *(b)* local authorities. [87431]

Mr Prisk: The Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative aims to help existing UK supply chains grow and achieve world class standards while encouraging major new suppliers to come and manufacture here. The new fund will support innovative projects in established UK advanced manufacturing sectors such as aerospace, automotive and chemicals. It will also target newer growth areas where the UK is well placed to take a global lead, such as energy renewables and other low carbon sectors. The competitive fund will invite applications early in the new year. Further information on criteria, funding and other arrangements concerning the initiative will also be available early in the new year.

Business: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to assist small and medium-sized businesses to retain skills in the west midlands. [87422]

Mr Hayes: One of the most effective ways of encouraging skill retention in businesses is to ensure that the skills system responds more dynamically to their needs and brings greater value to their businesses from more productive employees.

Apprenticeships represent real jobs and are at the heart of the skills system we are building. Provisional figures for 2010/11 show that total apprenticeship starts in the west midlands increased by around two-thirds on 2009/10. We are not only expanding apprenticeships but improving their quality and making it easier for businesses of all sizes to recruit apprentices. Our research shows that apprenticeships help employers improve productivity and give them a competitive edge.

The Government announced recently that we will be offering up to 40,000 new incentive payments of £1,500 to small employers who take on and retain their first young apprentice. At the same time, we are reducing bureaucracy involved for small firms and working to ensure that the National Apprenticeship Service and training providers deliver a better service to small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

In addition, we fund a leadership and management programme for senior leaders of SMEs to help them develop their own personal leadership and management skills so they are better able to create a high performing, innovative workplace and to improve the skills of their work force. We are also providing co-funding for level 2 learning for employees of small firms, and the new Business Coaching for Growth Programme will help SMEs to overcome the barriers they face in achieving growth potential.

Competition Commission: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time equivalent staff the Competition Commission *(a)* employed in 2010-11 and *(b)* plans to employ in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [86870]

Mr Davey: Figures supplied to BIS by the Competition Commission (CC) in December 2011 record that the CC employed a total current work force of 122 individuals equating to 119 FTE.

For 2010-11, at the financial year end, the figures were 123 or 121.6 FTE respectively.

Competition: EU Law

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effect of EU Directives and Regulations on the competitiveness of UK business. [87715]

Mr Davey: The Government assess the impact of EU legislation on the UK, both when submitting explanatory memoranda on new proposals to Parliament, and when transposing EU legislation into UK law. This includes the cost to UK business and, in particular, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and micro-businesses.

The Government have also adopted 'Guiding Principles for EU legislation', which set out that when transposing EU legislation, the Government will endeavour to ensure that UK businesses are not put at a competitive disadvantage compared with their European counterparts.

Copyright: Arts

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 449W, on copyright: arts, what consideration he has given to raising the threshold at which the levy is triggered to minimise the effect of the Directive on the art market. [87192]

Mr Davey: The threshold at which Artist's Resale Right becomes payable in the UK was set at €1,000 by the previous Administration. Suggestions have been made from time to time that the threshold should be changed but I have seen no compelling evidence that justifies any such change, either in terms of the impact on the art market or on artists.

Food Procurement

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on food purchased through its food and catering services in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [87004]

Mr Davey: During the period December 2010 to November 2011 the Department spent £645,062 on hospitality (which includes food and drink) with the Department's catering services contractor BaxterStorey. This compares with £1,203,977 and £872,214 in the previous two 12 month periods.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost of redundancies from the civil service arising from the closure of *(a)* the London Development Agency and *(b)* the North West Regional Development Agency; and if he will make a statement. [87783]

Mr Prisk: Neither London Development Agency (LDA) nor North West Development Agency (NWDA) staff are civil servants. The LDA has only two officers falling within the terms of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS). The vast majority of NWDA staff are covered by the CSCS. The cost of redundancies at LDA and NWDA will depend on the number of staff resigning, transferring elsewhere in the public sector or leaving for other reasons, prior to closure, but is estimated not to exceed £135,000 and £7,500,000 respectively.

Directors: Disqualification

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people disqualified under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 breached the terms of their disqualification order in each year since 2002. [86948]

Mr Davey: The details required to answer this question are not held centrally in a readily accessible form and the information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The number of separate convictions secured by the Department for criminal offences under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 (CDDA) for the financial year 2001/02 onwards are set out in the following table. Convictions under the CCDA may relate to an offence arising by reason of bankruptcy or a disqualification order, and an individual may be charged with more than one of these offences in a single case. Convictions by other prosecution authorities are not included.

	Number
2000/01	65
2001/02	86
2002/03	74
2003/04	43
2004/05	38
2005/06	41
2006/07	40
2007/08	52
2008/09	32
2009/10	35
2010/11	34

Higher Education: Fees and Charges

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the long-term financial sustainability of institutions charging tuition fees below £7,500; and if he will make a statement. [86759]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is under a legal duty to consider the financial health of those institutions it funds. Where an institution is identified as at high risk, HEFCE will act to prioritise the interests of students and safeguard public money.

HEFCE's internal assurance service is responsible for monitoring financial dealings with institutions and their overall financial health. It undertakes audit work in institutions and assesses institutional risk. Where appropriate, HEFCE provides intensive expert support and financial assistance.

However, as HE institutions are autonomous, should one mismanage its affairs, the Government cannot offer a guarantee of protection.

Institutions are free within the parameters set by Government to determine their own fees in line with their own business models.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of his Department's proposed changes to the further education fee structure on the number of people enrolling in higher education courses in 2013-14. [86760]

Mr Willetts: 2013-14 is the first financial year in which further education (FE) loans will be available, for those studying in the 2013/14 academic year, so it is unlikely that there will be any impact on HE course enrolment for the same (2013/14) academic year.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) will publish both a full impact assessment of FE loans and an equality impact assessment of FE loans in March 2012.

Both impact assessments will be informed by research and analysis commissioned by BIS. This will include the results of an online learner panel survey carried out by Opinion Panel, as well as TNS-BMRB work with potential FE students to understand how FE loans might affect their decision to study, and further research as required.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 516W, on higher education: finance, how many *(a)* doctoral, *(b)* taught Masters and *(c)* research Masters postgraduate degree course places in each subject area were funded by (i) the Higher Education Funding Council for England and (ii) other organisations in the public sector in (A) 2010-11 and (B) 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [87135]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* Information on the number of postgraduate taught (PGT) and postgraduate research (PGR) full-time equivalent students (FTEs) counted in the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) teaching and research funding methodologies for England are shown in Tables 1 and 2 as follows. The postgraduate taught figures are broken down into the following broad subject areas:

(A) The clinical stages of medicine and dentistry courses and veterinary science.

(B) Laboratory-based subjects (science, pre-clinical stages of medicine and dentistry, engineering and technology).

(C) Subjects with a studio, laboratory or fieldwork element.

(D) All other subjects

Table 1: Number of postgraduate taught (PGT) FTEs (English institutions)

	2010-11 FTEs		2011-12 Assumed FTEs	
Price group	Mainstream	Co-funded	Mainstream	Co-funded
(A)	1,911.4	30.4	1,911.4	30.4
(B)	10,918.2	137.0	10,891.5	188.0
(C)	31,548.8	1,493.6	31,585.2	1,881.6
(D)	34,072.7	795.4	34,073.1	956.6
Total	78,451.2	2,456.4	78,461.2	3,056.6

Sources:
1. 2010-11 FTEs (mainstream) taken from HESES/HEIFES10
2. 2010-11 FTEs (co-funded) taken from the 2010-11 monitoring return
3. 2011-12 Assumed FTEs taken from the October 2011-12 sector grant tables

Table 2: Number of postgraduate research (PGR) FTEs (English institutions)

Subject area	Eligible PGR FTEs in 2010-11 funding	Eligible PGR FTEs in 2011-12 funding	Difference	Percentage difference
Sciences (including medicine)	23,080	24,614	1,534	7
Social sciences	9,101	9,976	875	10
Arts and humanities	7,472	8,096	623	8
Total England	39,654	42,686	3,032	8

Source:
Eligible PGR students in years 1 to 3 of full-time study (and part-time equivalent) taken from the 2009 and 2010 HEFCE Research Activity Surveys.

Table 3 as follows shows headcount figures on the number of taught masters, other masters, PhD and other doctoral studies places that were funded in 2010/11 and are expected to be funded in 2011/12 in the UK by Research Councils UK. The figures are broken down by research council.

Table 3: Number of headcount postgraduate places funded by RCUK (UK institutions)

	Taught masters		Other masters		PhD		Other doctoral studies	
	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11	2011/12	2010/11	2011/12
AHRC	—	—	607	490	729	730	—	—
BBSRC	—	—	110	110	555	530	—	—
EPSRC	—	—	—	—	2,902	1,900	—	—
ESRC	—	—	6	6	730	660	—	—
MRC	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
NERC	—	—	285	—	325	330	—	—
STFC	—	—	—	—	225	230	—	—

General notes:
1. The data do not take in to account any funds leveraged by higher education institutions to increase the total number of studentship places available.
2. Figures for 2011/12 are estimates and hence the actual numbers may vary from those given above. If universities choose to support part-time students and fees-only students, and/or match research council funding with that from other sources, then more students will be able to be supported; PhD students may also be supported by larger research grants from some councils.

Notes on Medical Research Council (MRC) data:
1. All of the data presented above exclude studentships at MRC funded centres. In 2008/09 there were a total of 226 students undergoing doctoral training in MRC funded Centres. This figure includes existing and new students. The MRC does not have data available for any other years.
2. Data for 2010/11 and 2011/12 are not yet available.
3. The number of studentship places funded by the MRC is subject to annual review. At present MRC have no plans to significantly increase or decrease funding for PhD or Research Masters Studentships.

Notes on Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) data:
All masters students are included in "Other masters". Separate figures are not available for Taught and Research masters. PhD studentship numbers or the last three years are estimates from data based on returns provided by awarded institutions.

Notes on Engineering and Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC) data:
EPSRC only supports masters-level training when it aligns with their broader strategy. For this reason, in 2009 they decided to focus most of their support in this area on activities which employ masters-level training as a means of developing highly skilled doctoral-level researchers, rather than those which view the provision of masters graduates as an end in itself. As a result, their current support for masters-level training is delivered via the Centres for Doctoral Training, Doctoral Training Accounts and some courses in Mathematical Sciences (eg Statistics). Not all of these routes provide students with a formal masters qualification so it would be difficult to be definitive about numbers over a specific period.

Notes on Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) data:
ESRC funds a mix of 3 year PhD and 1 year + 3 years masters + PhD awards. The total amount of these awards is included under section (c) PhD for the previous and next three years. ESRC are unable to disaggregate these figures further in the time available without use of disproportionate resources, however they estimate that 60% of the awards are of the 1 + 3 type. Under section (b) Other masters, they have included a strategic initiative where we fund standalone masters to build research capacity in demography.

Notes on Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) data:
NERC does not differentiate between MSc and MRes, so all places listed as other masters.

Higher Education: Hearing Impairment

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to promote deaf awareness among UK universities and other higher education providers. [87583]

Mr Willetts: The Department is not itself undertaking specific activity to promote deaf awareness in higher education. However, we provide funding to both the Disability Alliance and the Equality Challenge Unit, independent organisations which alongside providing advice and guidance to higher education institutions also help raise awareness about a range of equality issues in the sector.

Higher education institutions have duties under the Equality Act 2010 to support disabled students, including deaf students, when applying to higher education and when studying. The law establishes a framework of responsibility which higher education institutions must comply with and also promotes an anticipatory and proactive approach to supporting disabled students. Institutions are required to make reasonable adjustments for disabled students to ensure that they can fully participate in their education and enjoy the other benefits, facilities and services which are provided for students.

The Government support disabled students in higher education through funding. We provide funding to higher education institutions, through the Higher Education Funding Council for England, to help them recruit and support disabled students; £13 million will be provided in academic year 2011/12.

The Government also provide direct support to disabled students through disabled students' allowances (DSAs). DSAs can help pay the extra costs a student may incur, because of a disability, when undertaking a course of higher education. DSAs are provided in addition to the standard student support package, are not income-assessed and do not have to be repaid.

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department to ensure that prospective overseas students are not dissuaded from applying to UK universities by changes to the Tier 4 visa regime. [85560]

Mr Willetts: I have regular meetings and correspondence with the Minister for Immigration, my hon. Friend the Member for Ashford (Damian Green), to discuss issues raised with me by the higher education sector relating to the Tier 4 visa regime.

We have discussed the impact of proposals around maximum length of study, the removal of post-study work and during study work rights.

We have also discussed how to ensure that the message is clear that the UK welcomes legitimate students. The purpose of the changes to the visa regime is to eliminate abuse within the system.

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from each EU member state are studying at English universities in the 2011-12 academic year. [86194]

Mr Willetts: Information on the number of enrolments for European Union (EU) member state-domiciled students is shown in the table, for English higher education institutions. Figures are provided for the academic year 2009/10. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from 12 January 2012.

European Union enrolments[1] by country of domicile[2], English higher education institutions, academic year 2009/10

EU member state	*Enrolments*
Austria	1,285
Belgium	2,395
Bulgaria	2,885
Cyprus	10,760
Czech Republic	945
Germany	11,960
Denmark	1,305
Estonia	800
Spain (including Canary Islands, Ceuta, Melilla)	4,410
Finland (including Aland Islands)	1,270
France[3]	10,510
Gibraltar	555
Greece	10,170
Hungary	920
Ireland	8,320
Italy (Inc Sardinia, Sicily)	5,750
Lithuania	2,535
Luxembourg	755
Latvia	1,420
Malta	805
Netherlands	2,770
Poland	6,145
Portugal (Inc Madeira, Azores)	2,375
Romania	2,835
Sweden	2,630
Slovenia	250
Slovakia	1,190
European Union, not otherwise specified	115
Total	98,060

[1] Covers entrants to full-time and part-time postgraduate and undergraduate courses.
[2] Country of domicile is the student's permanent or home address prior to entry to the course.
[3] Figures for France include Corsica, Guadeloupe, Guiana, Martinique and Reunion.
Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Investment: Environment Protection

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether UK Green Investment will be providing support for the Green Deal. [87101]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1024W.

Phoenix Companies

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies, declared bankrupt following convictions for fraud, have been resurrected as phoenix companies. [87760]

Mr Davey: The information requested is not recorded and as a consequence is not available.

Post Offices

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Post Office Locals in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland he expects will be located in (i) urban and (ii) rural areas. [87016]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 December 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1030-31W. The exact location of new Post Office Local branches is dependent on the suitability of the Local model to the location concerned, the views of existing sub-postmasters on how the model can assist their business going forward, and the requirement by Post Office Ltd to both maintain a network of at least 11,500 branches and to continue to comply with the strict access criteria whereby, for example, over 99% of the national population must be within three miles of a post office outlet.

The Post Office Local model, which has been designed with the customer specifically in mind, is expected to be most suitable for those sub-post offices and retail premises that are typically found in urban, suburban and larger rural communities.

Regional Growth Fund: Merseyside

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in *(a)* Liverpool, Walton constituency, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* nationally have been awarded regional growth funding contracts; and how many have received capital to date. [87188]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* Four projects from Walton, 11 from Merseyside and 176 nationally were awarded conditional allocations from the Regional Growth Fund. In Merseyside two companies have recently signed final allocations and are under way. Monies for the projects are paid in arrears but will draw down resource in 2012. Claims for £95.5 million have been paid to companies and organisations through the Regional Growth Fund.

Senior Civil Servants: Engineering

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many members of his Department's senior management team have *(a)* an engineering qualification and *(b)* experience in the engineering industry. [86186]

Mr Willetts: At senior civil service (SCS) level in BIS we have six people with formal engineering qualifications. In addition we have another six with experience of working in the engineering industry. In total our SCS has 55 years of experience of working in the engineering industry.

Students: Loans

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average debt owed to the Student Loans Company by students graduating in *(a)* 2011, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2009, *(d)* 2008 and *(e)* 2007. [85524]

Mr Hayes: The average debt accumulated by borrowers who graduated (or otherwise left their course) in years 2007-10 is shown in the following table. Figures come from table 3(iii) of the Official Statistics: "Income Contingent repayments by repayment cohort and tax year 2000/01 to 2009/10 inclusive (provisional)" available on the Student Loans Company (SLC) website at:

http://www.slc.co.uk/media/77960/SLCOSP022011.pdf

Graduation/withdrawal year	*Average amount of debt outstanding (£)*
2007	10,870
2008	11,770
2009	14,690
2010	17,240

Source:
SLC

The figures above relate to the average outstanding debt at the beginning of the tax year when borrowers became liable to repay. Figures take into account repayments made, loans cancelled because of death or permanent disability and accrued interest in advance of the Statutory Repayment Due Date (SRDD).

The latest forecast of the average debt at SRDD in April 2012 for 2011 graduates/withdrawals is £17,500, to the nearest £500. This figure is subject to change due to interest being added, early repayments being made and borrowers who are currently counted in later repayment cohorts withdrawing from their courses before April 2012.

EDUCATION

Academies Act 2010

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the Academies Act 2010 on the provision of support services for schools. [84627]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The provision of services to schools is a matter for local decision. Local authorities provide a variety of services to their schools and to academies. The pattern of service provision is constantly changing. We have made no specific assessment of the effect of the Academies Act 2010 in this respect.

Academies: School Meals

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure that school dinners in schools with academy status conform to a programme of healthy eating. [84375]

Mr Gibb: Academy principals know that good food supports good behaviour and better concentration in school and will wish to provide healthy school dinners. There are no plans to ask academies to conform to a particular programme of healthy eating or the school food standards that apply to maintained schools, although the standards provide a benchmark of good practice. There is no evidence that academies provide a less healthy diet than other schools.

The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has asked the School Food Trust to look at the approach academies are taking to providing healthy school food for their pupils; this will include a mixture of established and new academies.

Children: Abuse

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department has taken to record the number of children who experience neglect. [87157]

Tim Loughton: In England, national data are collected on the number of children who are assessed by children's social services as being children in need and the reasons why they are in need, including whether that is for abuse or neglect. Data are also collected on the number of children who are the subject of a child protection plan by category of abuse including a category for neglect.

The Department has been working with a range of stakeholders and sector leaders to take forward the Government's response to Professor Munro's recommendation to have a revised suite of local and national performance information to drive improvements in children's safeguarding. This should give local authorities and central Government greater understanding of neglect and of other aspects of safeguarding children than is currently available through existing collections. The Department has now published the local children's safeguarding performance information that it agreed with the sector local areas should collect. The Department is planning to launch a full public consultation in January on the national children's safeguarding performance information recommended by Professor Eileen Munro.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish the guidance issued to civil servants in his Department responsible for drafting answers to Parliamentary Questions; and if he will make a statement. [85170]

Tim Loughton: The Department issues Cabinet Office guidance on drafting answers to parliamentary questions to staff in the Department who are responsible for drafting answers, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. In addition, guidance is provided on ministerial preferences.

Departmental Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether any senior staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies are paid by means of payments to a limited company in lieu of a salary; and if he will publish his policy on such payments. [85084]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The Department, its executive agency (the Standards and Testing Agency) and its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) do not make payments to individuals to a limited company in lieu of salary. All senior staff are directly employed, are paid through payroll and have deductions for income tax and national insurance contributions made at source.

All payments for the Department, its agency and NDPBs follow the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/civil-service-management-code

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to ensure social value is included when services are commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [85651]

Tim Loughton: UK public procurement policy is to award contracts on the basis of value for money, which means the optimum combination of cost and quality over the lifetime of the project. Public sector procurers are required to assess value for money from the perspective of the contracting authority using criteria linked to the subject matter of the contract, including compliance with the published specification.

Wider socio-economic benefits that do not accrue to the contracting authority cannot be taken into account at tender evaluation stage if they do not relate to the subject matter of a contract from the point of view of the contracting authority.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 286W, on education maintenance allowance, if he will take steps to ensure that the independent evaluation considers the effects of the new arrangements for financial support for young people aged 16 to 19 on *(a)* recruitment, *(b)* attendance levels, *(c)* retention and *(d)* achievement of students post-16. [85526]

Mr Gibb: The three year independent evaluation will be supplemented by regular analyses of management information from providers in receipt of 16 to 19 Bursary funding. The evaluation will collect and analyse the characteristics of applicants and recipients of the bursaries to enable the Department to assess whether the fund is meeting the needs of young people (particularly those disproportionately less likely to participate post-16). It will also consider the perceived impact of the bursaries and examine providers' decision-making processes when awarding bursaries; and inform reviews of allocation criteria during subsequent years of the programme.

Education: Assessments

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he has given to consolidating the examination boards into a single organisation. [86812]

Mr Gibb: The Government are clear that any practices which undermine the integrity of the examinations system are unacceptable.

Following the recent investigations by *The Daily Telegraph* into the conduct of awarding body examiners, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), asked Ofqual to conduct an urgent investigation into the specific allegations. The scope of Ofqual's investigation will examine every aspect of awarding bodies' conduct which gives rise to concern.

The Secretary of State has asked Ofqual's chief executive, Glenys Stacey, to report back before Christmas with her conclusions and recommendations for further action. No option, including the future landscape of awarding bodies, is off the table.

Educational Visits: Accidents

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many incidents requiring hospitalisation there were involving children on school trips and expeditions in the UK in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [86629]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is not held centrally by the Department. However, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) collects data on injuries reported and defined under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995 and provides the following information:

Reported non-fatal injuries[1] to pupils/students[2] in primary and secondary education[3], 2009/10 and 2010/11[4]

Work process[5]	*2009/10*	*2010/11[4]*	*Total*
0813—Research irrespective of industry, type and location, includes e.g sociological research	—	2	2
0815—Swimming pool activities	29	26	55
0818—Water Sports, boating, motor, boat, mooring at marinas	1	1	2
0820—Go-Karting	1		1
0821—Horse riding and equestrian sports (not horse training/breeding)	8	9	17
0822—Adventure Activity and Education field studies	12	15	27
Total	51	53	104

[1] Injuries are reported and defined under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995. Unless engaged in work experience or work placements, school pupils are classed as 'members of the public'. Under RIDDOR there are two categories of severity of injury for members of the public: fatal injuries and non-fatal injuries that cause a person to be taken from the site of the accident to hospital. On the basis of the criteria selected there were no fatal injuries reported in 2009/10 or in 2010/11.
[2] Identified by Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2000 Unit Group 0002 'Student'.
[3] Identified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2007 classes 85.10 'Pre-primary education', 85.20 'Primary education', 85.30 'General secondary education' and 85.32 'Technical and vocational secondary education'.
[4] Provisional.
[5] Specific codes from Work Process Group 08 'Education, Training, Research and Recreation/Sporting Activities'—HSE accident coding classification.

Educational Visits: Risk Assessment

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to simplify the process of undertaking risk assessments for learning outside the classroom. [86630]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education published revised and reduced health and safety guidance for schools on 2 July 2011. The guidance summarises how the existing health and safety law affects schools, local authorities, governing bodies, and staff—particularly in relation to school trips and risk assessments.

The advice clarifies that school employers should always take a common sense and proportionate approach to risk assessment, remembering that in schools risk assessment and risk management are tools to enable children to undertake activities safely, and not prevent activities from taking place. Sensible risk management cannot remove risk altogether but it should avoid needless or unhelpful paperwork.

The Department will review the guidance in summer 2012.

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to simplify his Department's guidance on health and safety for learning outside the classroom. [86631]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education published revised and reduced health and safety advice for schools on 2 July 2011. The guidance summarises how the existing health and safety law affects schools, local authorities, governing bodies, and staff—particularly in relation to school trips and risk assessment

This advice has been reduced from 150 pages of information to eight pages. The Department will review the guidance again in summer 2012.

English Baccalaureate

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the potential impact on the take-up of school subjects of non-inclusion in the English Baccalaureate in each of the next five years. [85009]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 December 2011]:* The Department has carried out an assessment of the impact of the English Baccalaureate on subject choices, through commissioning research which was published on 31 August 2011.

The survey indicated that 47% of pupils taking GCSEs in 2013 in the schools responding will be taking subjects that could lead to an English Baccalaureate, compared with just 23% of GCSE-stage pupils entered in 2011. The research did not provide evidence which could be used to draw robust conclusions about the take-up of individual subjects not included in the scope of the English Baccalaureate. Schools were asked to indicate whether any subjects or courses had been withdrawn from the curriculum or failed to recruit enough pupils for the next academic year. Just under half (45%) of schools reported that one or more courses or subjects had been withdrawn, or were under review. However, it was not possible to identify the extent to which these changes were as a result of the introduction of the English Baccalaureate, or the effect on take-up of individual subjects.

The research report can be viewed at:

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-RB150

Copies have already been placed in the House Libraries.

We will continue to monitor the impact of the English Baccalaureate on GCSE subject choices, including through review of GCSE entries in 2012.

Free School Meals: Preston

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many school students in Preston were in receipt of free school meals on 30 September *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [83869]

Mr Gibb: Information on the number of pupils eligible for free school meals on 30 September 2010 and 2011 is not collected. Free school meal eligibility is collected via the termly school censuses in January, May and October. Information on free school meal eligibility as at January 2010 and 2011 in Preston is shown in the tables. To provide information based on the October or May school censuses would incur disproportionate cost.

Number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals, Preston parliamentary constituency, January each year

	Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[1, 2]			*State-funded secondary schools*[1, 3]			*Special schools*[4]		
	Number on roll[5, 6]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[5, 6]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll*[5, 6]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[5, 6]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll*[5, 6]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[5, 6]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2010	5,936	1,838	31.0	1,886	510	27.0	229	96	41.9
2011	6,030	1,876	31.1	1,747	467	26.7	228	95	41.7

	Pupil referral units			*Maintained nursery, state-funded primary*[1, 2] *state-funded secondary*[1, 3] *special schools*[4] *and pupil referral units*		
	Number on roll[5, 6]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[5, 6]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll*[5, 6]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*[5, 6]	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
2010	77	29	37.7	8,128	2,473	30.4
2011	77	28	36.4	8,082	2,466	30.5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes primary academies.
[3] Includes city technology colleges and secondary and all through academies.
[4] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[5] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations. In pupil referral units also includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges.
[6] Includes pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15 (age as at 31 August).
Source:
School Census.

Free Schools

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what steps he plans to take to maintain existing successful schools in areas where free schools are proposed; [84467]

(2) what consultations are held with *(a)* existing successful schools and *(b)* communities in areas where a free school is proposed; [84469]

(3) what consideration is given to the existence of sufficient places in successful schools in an area where a new free school is proposed. [84470]

Mr Gibb: Free Schools are set up in response to parental demand and encourage neighbouring schools to improve. This demand for new schools is often caused by a lack of pupil places or parents being dissatisfied with the quality of local provision. Interested parties have the opportunity to comment on these issues during the consultation process carried out by the academy trust of each free school as part of their statutory duty.

Consultation is a key part of the establishment of a free school. The academy trust of the free school is required by the Academies Act 2010 to carry out a consultation with appropriate stakeholders. The Secretary of State for Education will take the results of the consultation into account when deciding whether to enter into a funding agreement.

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on how many occasions he overturned the original recommendation from his officials on a free school application; and who the applicants were. [85364]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 December 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), receives advice from officials on a wide range of matters on a daily basis and makes his decisions having carefully considered all the relevant matters and facts.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which free schools planning to open in 2012 or later have received initial approval in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* parliamentary constituency. [86374]

Mr Gibb: Applications for 71 free schools planning to open in 2012 or beyond have been approved to move to pre-opening stage. The locations of the free schools will depend on the availability of suitable sites, but as a guide, the proposed locations (at the time of application) are as follows:

Name of free school	*Region*	*Local authority*	*Constituency*
Al Madinah	East Midlands	Derby	Derby South
Alban City Free School	East of England	Hertfordshire	St Albans
ARK Bolingbroke Academy	London	Wandsworth	Battersea
Atherton Free School	North West	Wigan	Leigh

Name of free school	*Region*	*Local authority*	*Constituency*
Barrow 1618	West Midlands	Shropshire	Ludlow
Barwick's Own 2nd Secondary School	North East	Stockton-on-Tees	Stockton South
BBG Parents Alliance	Yorkshire and the Humber	Kirklees	Batley and Spen
Becket Keys Church School	East of England	Essex	Brentwood and Ongar
Brandon Free School	East of England	Suffolk	West Suffolk
Brighton Bilingual Primary School	South East	Brighton and Hove	Brighton Kemptown
CET Primary School	London	Tower Hamlets	Bethnal Green and Bow
CET Primary School	London	Westminster	Westminster North
Chorley Career and Sixth Form Academy	North West	Lancashire	Chorley
City of Peterborough Academy	East of England	Peterborough	Peterborough
City of Peterborough Academy Special School	East of England	Peterborough	Peterborough
Cobham Free School	South East	Surrey	Esher and Walton
Compass School	London	Southwark	Bermondsey and Old Southwark
Corby Free School	East Midlands	Northamptonshire	Corby
Cramlington Village Primary School	North East	Northumberland	Blyth Valley
Derby Pride Academy	East Midlands	Derby	Derby South
Dixons City Free Primary	Yorkshire and the Humber	Bradford	Bradford East
Dixons City Free School	Yorkshire and the Humber	Bradford	Bradford East
East Birmingham Network Free School	West Midlands	Birmingham	Birmingham, Hodge Hill
Emmanuel Community School	London	Waltham Forest	Walthamstow
EN3 Primary School	London	Enfield	Enfield North
Europa School, UK	South East	Oxfordshire	Henley
Everton in the Community Free School Trust	North West	Liverpool	Liverpool Wavertree
Frome Steiner Academy	South West	Somerset	Somerton and Frome
Gateway Primary Free School	East of England	Thurrock	Thurrock, Eastern
Golders Green Jewish Primary School	London	Barnet	Finchley and Golders Green
Grindon Hall Free School	North East	Sunderland	Washington and Sunderland West
Haringey Free School	London	Haringey	Tottenham
Harmonize Academy	North West	Liverpool	Liverpool, Walton
Harpenden Free School	East of England	Hertfordshire	Hitchin and Harpenden
Harris Peckham Primary School	London	Southwark	Camberwell and Peckham
Hatfield Community Free School	East of England	Hertfordshire	Welwyn Hatfield
Hull Free School	Yorkshire and the Humber	Kingston upon Hull	Kingston upon Hull North
Kempston Academy	East of England	Bedford Borough	Bedford
King's School Woolston	North West	Warrington	Warrington North
Kingfisher Hall Primary Academy	London	Enfield	Edmonton
Lighthouse School	Yorkshire and the Humber	Leeds	Pudsey
London Academy of Excellence	London	Newham	West Ham
Michaela Community School	London	Lambeth	Vauxhall
Newham Free Academy	London	Newham	West Ham
Nishkam School Trust	West Midlands	Birmingham	Birmingham, Perry Barr
North Ealing Church of England Academy 2013 Opener	London	Ealing	Ealing North
Oakbank School	South East	Wokingham	Wokingham
One in a Million Free School	Yorkshire and the Humber	Bradford	Bradford West
Parkfield New School	South West	Bournemouth	Bournemouth West
Pimlico Primary	London	Westminster	Cities of London and Westminster
Reach Academy Feltham	London	Hounslow	Feltham and Heston
Reading University Technical Academy	South East	Reading	Reading East
Rivendale Primary School	London	Hammersmith and Fulham	Hammersmith
Rosewood School	South East	Southampton	Southampton Test
Rotherham Central Free School	Yorkshire and the Humber	Rotherham	Rother Valley
Sandymoor School	North West	Halton	Weaver Vale
School 21	London	Newham	West Ham
Southwark Free School	London	Southwark	Bermondsey and Old Southwark
St Chaitanya's School	London	Harrow	Harrow East
St Michael's Catholic Secondary School	South West	Cornwall	Camborne and Redruth
Stone Soup Learns	East Midlands	Nottingham	Nottingham East
Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School	North West	Blackburn with Darwen	Blackburn

Name of free school	Region	Local authority	Constituency
The Beccles Free School	East Of England	Suffolk	Suffolk Coastal
The Excellence Academy	West Midlands	Sandwell	West Bromwich East
The Greenwich Free School	London	Greenwich	Greenwich and Woolwich
The Hawthorne's Free School	North West	Sefton	Bootle
The Rural Enterprise Academy	West Midlands	Staffordshire	Stafford
The Saxmundham Free School	East of England	Suffolk	Suffolk Coastal
The Swanage School	South West	Dorset	South Dorset
The Tiger School	South East	Kent	Maidstone and The Weald
Wapping High School	London	Tower Hamlets	Poplar and Limehouse

Free Schools: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what methodology his Department uses in respect of the calculation of revenue funding for free schools; how much he has allocated to each free school in 2011-12; and how many pupils were enrolled in each school as at September 2011. [75512]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 October 2011]:* Annual revenue funding for free schools is equivalent to that received by maintained schools and academies in the same local authority area.

Guidance on the methodology used to calculate revenue funding for free schools can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/freeschools/a0073853/advice-on-free-school-revenue-funding-201112

The revenue funding allocated to each of the 24 open free schools for the academic year 2011/12 by the Young People's Learning Agency is shown in the following table (excluding site and start-up costs).

School	LA	Phase	Total pupil funding 2011/12 (rounded) (£)
Aldborough E-ACT Free School	Redbridge	Primary	545,000
All Saints Junior School	Reading	Primary	158,000
ARK Atwood Primary Academy	Westminster	Primary	420,000
ARK Conway Primary Academy	Hammersmith and Fulham	Primary	258,000
Batley Grammar School	Kirklees	All-through	2,505,000
Bristol Free School	Bristol	Secondary	514,000
Canary Wharf College	Tower Hamlets	Primary	416,000
Discovery New School	West Sussex	Primary	278,000
Eden Primary School	Haringey	Primary	226,000
Etz Chaim Jewish Primary School	Barnet	Primary	202,000
Kings Science Academy	Bradford	Secondary	797,000
Krishna-Avanti Primary School	Leicester	Primary	260,000
Langley Hall Primary Academy	Slough	Primary	827,000
Maharishi School	Lancashire	All-through	618,000
Moorlands Free School	Luton	Primary	1,402,000
Nishkam Free School	Birmingham	Primary	933,000
Priors Free School	Warwickshire	Primary	243,000
Rainbow Primary School	Bradford	Primary	290,000
Sandbach School	Cheshire East	Secondary	4,893,000
St Luke's Church of England Primary School	Camden	Primary	169,000
Stour Valley Community School	Suffolk	Secondary	875,000
The Free School Norwich	Norfolk	Primary	427,000
West London Free School	Hammersmith and Fulham	Secondary	825,000
Woodpecker Hall Primary School	Enfield	Primary	392,000

We estimate that the free schools which opened in September 2011 have over 3,000 pupils enrolled in total. Information about the number of children on roll at each school will be collected in the annual school census and published in due course.

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reason he has decided to provide funding for free schools specialising in mathematics for 16 to 18 year olds rather than funding for additional places in existing high-performing colleges and school sixth forms. [85464]

Mr Gibb: Our proposal could give strong university mathematics departments and academics in this country the chance to lead in developing and implementing new curricula and teaching methods for the most able mathematics students and provide the best possible preparation for further study in mathematics and related disciplines in our leading universities. We are keen to engage with all those who have an interest to explore possible models and innovative ideas.

Further Education

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with each sector skill council since May 2010. [79013]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 November 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has not met any of the Sector Skills Councils since May 2010.

I met E-Skills on 29 November 2011. The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, my hon. Friend the Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr Hayes), met the Construction Industry Training Board twice (on 28 October 2010 and 12 October 2011) and Creative and Culture Skills twice (on 14 October 2011 and 12 December 2011).

No other Ministers for the Department for Education have met any of the Sector Skills Councils since May 2010.

GCE A-level

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils from *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* independent schools achieved (i) three As at A Level and (ii) three A Level passes in (A) 1997 and (B) 2010. [73179]

Mr Gibb: Information for 1997 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The information for the year 2010 is given in the following table:

Percentage ofcandidates[1, 2, 3] achieving three or more AS level and three or more A level passes at comprehensive and independent mainstream schools, 2010

Admissions policy of school[4]	*Pupils achieving three or more individual AS level subject passes*	*Pupils achieving three or more individual A level subject passes*
	Percentage	
Comprehensive schools[5]	87.0	72.8
Independent mainstream schools[6]	95.3	89.8

[1] Students entered for a GCE or applied GCE A level or other level 3 qualification equivalent in size to an A level.
[2] Including attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.
[3] Students are at the end of key stage 5 studies in the academic year 2009/10.
[4] School type as recorded in the Post-16 School Performance Tables.
[5] Including city technology colleges and academies.
[6] Excludes non-maintained and independent special schools.
Source:
Post 16 School Performance Tables.

Provisional figures for 2011 were published on 20 October 2011 in the Statistical First Release "GCE/Applied GCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2010/11 (Provisional)" which is available at the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001035/index.shtml

Grammar Schools: Free School Meals

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils at grammar schools are entitled to free school meals as a proportion of all pupils in *(a)* the catchment area at the school, *(b)* the local authority ward in which the school is located and *(c)* the local authority area in which the school is located. [86391]

Mr Gibb: The requested information by local authority area and local authority ward is shown in the following tables.

Information for the catchment area of the schools is not available.

Selective schools: pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[1, 2, 3], January 2011, by ward, for those with at least one selective school, England

Ward name	*Number on roll, all schools in the ward area[2, 3, 4]*	*Number of pupils in selective schools known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals in the ward area[1, 2, 3]*	*Number of pupils in selective schools[1] known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals as a percentage of all pupils[2, 3, 4] in the ward area*
Abbey	15,951	56	0.35
Alcester	1,423	4	0.28
Alford	1,549	17	1.10
Altrincham	1,574	22	1.40
Aston	7,609	64	0.84
Bartley Green	3,837	19	0.50
Barton	8,137	33	0.41
Baylis and Stoke	2,160	20	0.93
Beaconsfield South	1,909	x	x
Beddington South	2,769	12	0.43
Bedgrove	4,749	11	0.23
Benenden and Cranbrook	1,561	x	x
Bilton	1,637	12	0.73
Blenheim Park	3,675	31	0.84
Bockhanger	901	26	2.89
Bourne East	2,398	9	0.38
Bournville	5,121	43	0.84
Bowdon	3,120	29	0.93
Bridge	5,775	14	0.24
Buckingham South	1,818	17	0.94
Bulk	1,805	19	1.05
Burnham Church	1,444	18	1.25
Caistor	1,307	5	0.38
Caldecott	961	9	0.94
Canford Heath West	1,108	24	2.17
Central	19,197	38	0.20
Central Harbour	658	24	3.65
Chatham Central	2,931	24	0.82
Chesham Bois and Weedon Hill	1,578	7	0.44
Christ Church	916	5	0.55
Christchurch	4,399	25	0.57
Church	5,663	27	0.48
Churston-with-Galmpton	1,281	34	2.65
Clatterbridge	2,782	74	2.66
Claughton	3,792	59	1.56
Cockington-with-Chelston	2,876	25	0.87
Coly Valley	877	11	1.25
Creekmoor	1,122	28	2.50
Danson Park	2,070	41	1.98
Drake	776	25	3.22
Duke's	2,265	18	0.79
East	5,968	25	0.42
Eastcliff	811	24	2.96
Elmbridge	1,086	7	0.64
Farnborough and Crofton	3,444	4	0.12
Folkestone Park	2,604	49	1.88
Folkestone Sandgate	1,202	49	4.08
Fullwell	3,044	32	1.05
Gainsborough North	2,196	21	0.96
Garden Suburb	2,456	13	0.53
Hale	4,935	18	0.36

Selective schools: pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[1, 2, 3], January 2011, by ward, for those with at least one selective school, England

Ward name	Number on roll, all schools in the ward area[2, 3, 4]	Number of pupils in selective schools known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals in the ward area[1, 2, 3]	Number of pupils in selective schools[1] known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals as a percentage of all pupils[2, 3, 4] in the ward area
Hale End and Highams Park	2,002	26	1.30
Haselbury	4,169	39	0.94
Hatherton Rushall	1,346	31	2 30
Heath	8,060	18	0.22
Heckmondwike	3,247	22	0.68
Hesters Way	799	6	0.75
High Barnet	2,866	17	0.59
High Street	2,678	20	0.75
Hilltop and Townsend	1,072	13	1.21
Horncastle	1,883	10	0.53
Hoylake	1,758	28	1.59
Illingworth	3,390	10	0.29
Judd	1,808	6	0.33
Katesgrove	1,339	5	0.37
Kedermister	3,096	16	0.52
Kingsholm and Wotton	1,377	11	0.80
Langley St Mary's	1,100	5	0.45
Lexden	2,186	4	0.18
Little Chalfont	1,079	5	0.46
Longford	4,625	61	1.32
Luton and Wayfield	3,390	30	0.88
Marconi	916	6	0.66
Marlow North and West	2,482	x	x
Medway	1,996	10	0.50
Moreland	1,459	13	0.89
Newport West	1,074	8	0.74
Nonsuch	1,525	15	0.98
Norbiton	1,258	16	1.27
North	6,252	12	0.19
Orpington	2,166	5	0.23
Paddock	2,890	16	0.55
Park	30,558	11	0.04
Patching Hall	1,883	6	0.32
Pelham	1,189	18	1.51
Penrith South	1,947	6	0.31
Peverell	1,859	23	1.24
Pilgrim	343	10	2.92
Podsmead	573	15	2.62
Priory	6,519	17	0.26
Prittlewell	2,843	12	0.42
Redlands	855	3	0.35
Ripon Spa	1,604	7	0.44
River	5,160	25	0.48
Rochester East	1,685	14	0.83
Rochester West	1,280	25	1.95
Royden	3,158	36	1.14
Sandwich	2,273	IS	0.79
Sidcup	3,280	24	0.73
Skipton North	2,124	18	0.85
Skircoat	2,386	23	0.96
Sleaford Castle	1,031	12	1.16
Sleaford Westholme	2,829	19	0.67
Soho	6,068	118	1.94
Southchurch	2,720	24	0.88
Southcourt	1,613	14	0.87
Spalding St John's	1,050	16	1.51
Spalding St Mary's	2,678	20	0.75
St Anne's	2,682	22	0.82
St Clement's	2,151	14	0.65
St John's	13,356	33	0.25
St Mark and Stratford	1,440	6	0.42
St Martin and Milford	935	x	x
St Mary's	13,960	28	0.20
St Michaels	3,002	41	1.37
St Peters	4,597	42	0.89
St Wulfram's	2,429	12	0.49
Stoke	3,688	15	0.41
Stoke and Trent Vale	2,752	11	0.40
Stour	3,281	20	0.61
Stratford Guild and Hathaway	2,602	9	0.35
Strouden Park	2,888	56	1.94
Sutton Central	1,402	12	0.86
Sutton Four Oaks	4,518	33	0.73
Sutton Vesey	3,335	31	0.93
Terriers and Amersham Hill	2,057	7	0.34
Tower Hamlets	2,423	68	2.81
Tudor	1,685	8	0.47
Twydall	2,706	37	1.37
Upton	5,370	85	1.58
Urmston	1,323	22	1.66
Vauxhall	1,028	x	x
Wallington North	1,244	14	1.13
Wallington South	1,792	17	0.95
West Finchley	1,545	21	1.36
West Hill	5,089	35	0.69
Whitewell	1,976	17	0.86
Wilmington	2,174	29	1.33
Wincheap	1,222	20	1.64

x = 1 or 2 pupils or a percentage based on 1 or 2 pupils.

[1] Includes pupils who are eligible for and claiming free school meals who attend one of the 164 selective schools in England.

[2] Includes pupils who are a sole or dual main registration. Includes boarders. In pupil referral units includes pupils registered with other providers and further education colleges.

[3] Pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged between five and 15.

[4] Includes maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools and pupil referral units. Includes middle schools as deemed, primary academies, secondary academies and city technology colleges.

Source:
School Census.

Selective schools: pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[1, 2, 3], January 2011, by local authority area, for those with at least one selective school, England

			Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals	
LA code	*LA name*	*Number on roll schools in LA area[2,3,4]*	*Number of pupils in selective schools known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals in the LA area[1,2,3]*	*Number of pupils in selective schools[1] known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals as a percentage of all pupils[2,3,4] in the LA area*
E09000003	302 Barnet	42,891	51	0.12
E09000004	303 Bexley	36,231	104	0.29
E08000025	330 Birmingham	163,719	308	0.19
E06000028	837 Bournemouth	18,801	56	0.30
E09000006	305 Bromley	41,095	9	0.02
E10000002	825 Buckinghamshire	66,753	138	0.21
E08000033	381 Calderdale	31,064	33	0.11
E10000006	909 Cumbria	62,887	6	0.01
E10000006	878 Devon	87,844	11	0.01
E09000010	308 Enfield	46,232	39	0.08
E10000012	881 Essex	181,122	21	0.01
E10000013	916 Gloucestershire	75,956	76	0.10
E10000016	886 Kent	191,211	653	0.34
E09000021	314 Kingston upon Thames	19,087	24	0.13
E09000034	382 Kirklees	57,665	22	0.04
E10000017	888 Lancashire	153,392	62	0.04
E10000019	925 Lincolnshire	91,660	205	0.22
E08000012	341 Liverpool	57,512	27	0.05
E06000035	887 Medway	37,550	155	0.41
E10000023	815 North Yorkshire	74,447	25	0.03
E06000026	879 Plymouth	32,908	63	0.19
E06000029	836 Poole	16,965	52	0.31
E06000038	870 Reading	15,601	8	0,05
E09000026	317 Redbridge	41,261	58	0,14
E05000039	871 Slough	20,650	81	0,39
E06000033	882 Southend-on-Sea	23,997	67	0,28
E06000021	861 Stoke-on-Trent	34,502	11	0,03
E09000029	319 Sutton	27,364	70	0,26
E06000020	894 Telford and Wrekin	24,171	8	0,03
E06000027	880 Torbay	16,286	59	0,36
E08000009	358 Trafford	33,016	169	0,51
E08000030	335 Walsall	40,481	47	0,12
E10000031	937 Warwickshire	69,064	34	0,05
E06000054	865 Wiltshire	59,691	7	0,01
E08000015	344 Wirral	43,331	242	0,56
E08000031	336 Wolverhampton	32,600	11	0,03

[1] Includes pupils who are eligible for and claiming free school meals who attend one of the 164 selective schools in England.
[2] Includes pupils who are a sole or dual main registration, Includes boarders.
[3] Pupils who have full time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged between five and 15.
[4] Includes maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools and pupil referral units, Includes middle schools as deemed, primary academies, secondary academies and city technology colleges.
Source:
School Census.

Languages: GCSE

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were not entered for a modern foreign language GCSE in each year since 1997. [80868]

Mr Gibb: The number of pupils who were not entered for a modern foreign language GCSE is given in the table. Information has been given for 1997, 2010 and 2011—other years can be provided only at disproportionate cost:

	Number of pupils who were not entered[1] for a modern foreign language GCSE[2]
1997[3,5]	153,500
2010[4,5]	366,500
2011[4,5]	377,600

[1] Includes students who were entered but received a grade X in the subject.
[2] Figures are given to the nearest hundred.
[3] 1997 figures relate to pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year.
[4] Figures for pupils at the end of key stage 4.
[5] 2011 figures are provisional results unchecked by schools, all other figures are final.
Source:
School and College Performance Tables.

Mathematics: Free Schools

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding will be made available for the new specialist mathematics free schools for 16 to 18 year olds. [85984]

Mr Gibb: Specialist maths free schools for 16 to 18-year-olds will receive revenue funding on the basis of the national funding formula for all 16 to 18 provision.

We are keen to engage with all those who have an interest to explore possible models and innovative ideas. The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), will consider carefully the estimated or potential capital cost of each proposal and will be looking for projects that offer value for money.

Mathematics: GCSE

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils did not achieve an *(a)* A*-C grade and *(b)* A*-G grade in mathematics GCSE in each year since 1997. [81018]

Mr Gibb: The number of pupils who did not achieve an A*-C grade or an A*-G grade in GCSE mathematics is given in the following table. Information for other years can be provided only at disproportionate cost:

Number

	Pupils not achieving an A-C grade in GCSE mathematics[1]*	*Pupils not achieving an A*-G grade in GCSE mathematics[1]*
1997[2, 4]	336,500	75,900
2010[3, 4]	253,500	53,600
2011[3, 4]	236,700	52,500

[1] Figures are given to the nearest hundred.
[2] 1997 figures relate to pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year.
[3] Figures for 2010 and 2011 are for pupils at the end of key stage 4.
[4] 2011 figures are provisional results unchecked by schools, all other figures are final.
Source:
School and College Performance Tables.

Mathematics: Specialist Schools

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding was withdrawn from specialist mathematics schools and colleges on the abolition of specialist school status and specialist school networks. [85983]

Mr Gibb: Funding for specialist schools was mainstreamed into the dedicated schools grant (DSG) from April 2011. The amount per pupil that each local authority was allocated for specialist schools in 2010-11 was added to each local authority's DSG per pupil for 2011-12. It was for local authorities, in consultation with their schools forum, to decide how to take account of previous specialist schools funding when determining their local schools funding formulae. To reduce the level of turbulence, the Government set a minimum funding guarantee to ensure that no school would see a reduction in their recurrent budget of more than 1.5% per pupil. Previous levels of specialist school funding were included in the calculation of this minimum funding guarantee.

Music: Education

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 1085W, on music: education, what the budget of the music standards fund will be in 2011-12. [86489]

Mr Gibb: The following table shows Department for Education funding for music education in England in 2011-12.

	£
In Harmony	500,000
Sing Up	4,000,000
Music Education Grant	77,000,000
Smaller contracts, organisations and projects	1,000,000
Music and Dance Scheme	29,100,000

During 2011-12 the Department for Education has developed a national plan for music education and a new funding mechanism. For this transitional year the Department has asked the Federation of Music Services (FMS) to administer the Music Education Grant on its behalf.

National Curriculum Tests

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of pupils achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at Key Stage 2 in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* parliamentary constituency in 2011; [86234]

(2) what proportion of pupils achieved Level 2 or below in Key Stage 2 reading tests in each parliamentary constituency in 2010-11. [86236]

Mr Gibb: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to his recent speech on strike action over planned changes to public sector pensions, which individual trades union leaders he was referring to. [85375]

Mr Gibb: In his speech of 28 November, the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), distinguished between those trade union leaders who negotiate hard on behalf of their members and a minority who take a more confrontational line. He made clear that he was not referring to any of the leaders of the teaching unions.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of children from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds who are eligible for the pupil premium; and if he will make pupil premium funding available for all children from such backgrounds. [82800]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 November 2011]:* For 2011-12, 7,730 pupils from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds were eligible for the pupil premium, representing 43.5% of the total number of pupils from these backgrounds included in the January school census and local returns.

The issues for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children are complex. The Government have set up a ministerial working group to consider them and any decisions will be taken in the light of the outcomes from this group.

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much he plans to allocate in funding for the pupil premium to Redditch constituency. [83024]

Mr Gibb: Pupil Premium funding is provided in respect of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM), children in care who have been continuously looked after for at least six months and children whose parents are serving in the armed forces. In the Redditch constituency in January 2011 there were 1,958 pupils known to be eligible for FSM and 13 service children, giving an allocation of £958,000 in 2011-12. The total number of pupils eligible for the pupil premium in the Redditch constituency may be higher but it is not possible to identify the number of pupils in each parliamentary constituency recorded as being in care or recorded in the Alternative Provision census as, in both cases, the returns are provided at local authority level rather than at establishment level.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to extend educational opportunities to disadvantaged children; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the new admissions codes on such children. [84113]

Mr Gibb: The top education priority for the coalition Government is to improve the life chances of children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Government plan

to introduce an entitlement to free early education for disadvantaged two-year-olds from September 2013. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), announced in his Autumn Statement that the Government will increase the amount of funding for this entitlement to £760 million in 2014-15. This means that at least 260,000 children will be able to benefit each year, some 40% of the total number of two-year-olds.

From April 2011 we introduced the pupil premium, which guarantees additional funding for schools with children from low-income families, and will help boost the attainment of the poorest children. Total funding is £625 million in 2011-12 increasing to £1.25 billion in 2012-13, and £2.5 billion in 2014-15.

On 1 December the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), laid the revised Schools Admissions Code and School Admission Appeals Code before Parliament as required under section 85 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Subject to the views of Parliament, these codes will come into force on 1 February 2012. Academies provide the best available opportunity for disadvantaged children in today's system, and a less prescriptive Schools Admissions Code and School Admission Appeals Code will enable many more of those children to attend higher performing schools.

Pupils: Hearing Impairment

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to promote deaf awareness amongst schoolteachers. [86935]

Sarah Teather: The Department is seeking to drive up awareness of special educational needs and disability (SEND) among teachers.

This includes new standards for Qualified Teacher Status, a scholarship for teachers to improve and extend their expertise when working with pupils with SEND and funding for 9,000 special educational needs co-ordinators to achieve the mandatory higher level award by the end of 2011-12.

As part of the scholarship programme teachers are eligible to apply for funding for the mandatory qualification in teaching pupils with a hearing impairment.

The Department is also funding the National Deaf Children's Society to revise some of its materials for teachers and schools to better respond to the needs of deaf children.

Reading: Primary Education

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many qualified reading recovery teachers there are in schools. [86713]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* There are currently 1,484 reading recovery teachers delivering the Every Child a Reader programme in schools.

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of children receiving reading recovery intervention are eligible for free school meals. [86714]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* In 2010-11, where schools recorded this information, 8,735 children (42%) who were selected for the Reading Recovery programme were entitled to free school meals.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what evaluation his Department plans to undertake on his proposed phonics screening at age six *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* 24 months following the commencement of the programme; and whether he plans to evaluate the effects of screening on children with speech, language and communication needs. [86805]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* The Department is currently scoping a research project to evaluate the impact of the phonics screening check. It will be important that this evaluation considers the impact of the screening check on different groups of children, including children with a range of different special education needs.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department plans to issue guidance to primary schools on implementing the phonics screening at age six; and whether any such guidance will include information on how to assist children with speech, language and communication needs. [86806]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* The Department is issuing three pieces of guidance for schools in relation to administering the year 1 phonics screening check. The first is the assessment and reporting arrangements (ARA) which explain the statutory requirements for administering the check in 2012. The second is a check administration guide and the third is a video version of this guide. These guides are more bespoke to the nature of the check and they refer to the responsibility of schools to ensure provision is made to meet the needs of all children with special educational needs. One of the reasons for producing a video version is that this medium can most clearly provide advice to teachers administering the check to pupils with speech, language and communication needs.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of his proposed phonics screening at age six on children with *(a)* special educational needs and *(b)* speech, language and communication needs; and if he will make a statement. [86807]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* The Year 1 phonics screening check is designed to identify children who need help with decoding using phonics at an early stage in their schooling. The Government want as many children as possible to access the assessment, including those with special educational needs.

The Standards and Testing Agency is currently analysing all of the data from the pilot and will provide a technical evaluation of the Year 1 phonics screening check, including information relating to Ofqual's common assessment criteria of validity, reliability, minimising bias, comparability and manageability. The technical report will include a dedicated section on the experience of children with special educational needs, including those with speech, language and communication needs. The Department intends the report to be published in spring 2012.

Schools: Administration

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress he has made on reducing the administrative burden on schools associated with requirements on continuing professional development. [86686]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to reducing the administrative burden on schools. The School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document requires that teachers participate in arrangements for continuing professional development, and, where appropriate, that of other teachers and support staff. There are no administrative requirements on schools in relation to teachers' professional development.

We have recently consulted on changes to the newly qualified teachers (NQT) induction regulations with the intention of establishing new arrangements that will reduce unnecessary prescription and burdens on schools from September 2012.

A number of measures have already been taken to reduce bureaucracy in schools: the Self Evaluation Form has been removed; the Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSIS) has been scrapped and the inspection framework has been streamlined. In addition, all data collections are being reviewed and the volume of guidance has been significantly reduced. A number of burdensome statutory duties and requirements have also been removed through the Education Act 2011.

Schools: Admissions

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the shortage of *(a)* primary school places and *(b)* secondary school places in (i) Lambeth local authority, (ii) London and (iii) England. [83851]

Mr Gibb: The Department collects information from each local authority on school capacity in maintained schools through an annual survey, which includes local authorities' own pupil forecasts. The most recent survey data relate to the position at May 2010 and are available on the Department for Education's website.

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000982/index.shtml

It is the responsibility of each local authority to help manage the supply and demand for primary and secondary school places in their area and secure a place for every child of statutory school age who wants one. The Department provides capital funding to local authorities to ensure there are sufficient school places.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the required number of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school places in (A) Pendle constituency and (B) East Lancashire in each of the next five years. [83876]

Mr Gibb: The Department collects information from each local authority on school capacity in maintained schools through an annual survey, which includes local authorities' own pupil forecasts. The most recent survey data relate to the position at May 2010 and are available on the Department for Education's website,

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000982/index.shtml

The Department provides capital funding to local authorities to support the provision of sufficient school places. It is the responsibility of each local authority to manage the supply and demand for primary and secondary school places in their area and secure a place for every child of statutory school age who wants one.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what variations in the requirement to comply with the School Admissions Code he has agreed in funding agreements with academies and free schools; and with which schools he has made any such agreement. [84248]

Mr Gibb: All academies and free schools are required by their funding agreements to comply with the school admissions code, except in cases where to do otherwise would better support local children. This Government have agreed one derogation from the school admissions code for a specific free school, the Canary Wharf College Free School, and has also agreed that because of the accelerated timescale for the opening of university technical colleges, studio schools and free schools, there is no requirement for these schools to be within the local process for co-ordinating admissions in the first year of establishment. For future years they must be within local authority co-ordination.

Schools: Expenditure

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of expenditure on all maintained schools was spent on *(a)* head teachers and other teaching staff, *(b)* classroom assistants, *(c)* other staff, *(d)* other current (revenue) spending and *(e)* capital spending in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [78327]

Mr Gibb: The available information on what proportion of expenditure on all maintained schools was spent on *(a)* head teachers and other teaching staff, *(b)* classroom assistants, *(c)* other staff, *(d)* other current (revenue) spending and *(e)* capital spending in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available is contained within the following tables:

Table 1: (a) to (d)—Revenue expenditure on teaching staff and all other categories in maintained schools for 1996-97 and 2009-10

	1996-97		*2009-10*	
	£000	*Percentage*	*£000*	*Percentage*
Teaching staff[1]	9,304,145	61.8	18,301,482	51.8
Education support staff[2]	964,266	6.4	4,932,966	14.0
Other staff[3]	1,132,196	7.5	3,260,570	9.2
Other current (revenue) spending[4]	3,656,733	24.3	8,838,958	25.0

Table 1: (a) to (d)—Revenue expenditure on teaching staff and all other categories in maintained schools for 1996-97 and 2009-10

	1996-97		2009-10	
	£000	Percentage	£000	Percentage
Total gross expenditure	15,057,340	100.0	35,333,976	100.0

[1] Includes teachers employed directly by the school, including supernumerary/peripatetic teachers on short-term contracts and supply teaching staff who are covering curriculum release, long term absence, sickness absence and training absence. Relates to all contracted full time and part time teachers paid within the scope of the 'The Education (School Teachers' Pay and Conditions) Order 2009' and includes expenditure on salaries and wages consisting of gross pay, including bonus and allowances, maternity pay and the employer's contributions to national insurance and superannuation. Also includes threshold payments and other payments relating to teacher reforms. Expenditure on supply teachers not employed directly from the school (i.e. paid via an agency or another third party) is also included. Does not include expenditure on teaching staff employed centrally by the local authority.

[2] Salaries and wages of support staff employed directly by the school in support of students' learning: child care staff, classroom assistants/learning support assistants, exam invigilators, foreign language assistants, librarians, nursery assistants, pianists, residential child care officers at a residential special school, supply education support staff, workshop and technology technicians, expenditure on salaries and wages consisting of gross pay, including of bonus and allowances, maternity pay and the employer's contributions to national insurance and superannuation, educational welfare officers. Education support staff not employed directly by the school are excluded from education support staff totals.

[3] 1996-97 only includes expenditure on caretakers, cleaners, maintenance staff, groundsmen, porters, messengers, security staff, car park attendants, escorts and other persons who carry out premises related work and any other staff not included, administrative and clerical staff and any other staff not covered by footnotes 1, 2 or 3. 2009-10 includes all spend on staff employed directly by the school in support of students' learning not previously included in teaching staff and education support staff. Staff not employed directly by the school are excluded from these totals.

[4] Includes all other spend such as those on running expenses, premises related expenditure, supply and services expenditure, transport expenditure, third party payments and transfer payments, in maintained schools in England. Spend on centrally retained expenses is not included in these totals.

Notes:

1. Includes all local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools.
2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the Section 52 form from the DFES
3. Cash terms figures (£000). The data are taken from the local authorities Section 251 Outturn statement for 2009-10.
4. The above data used are at 31 March 2011. These data will not match the information published on 6 January 2011 because it was amended by the local authorities.

Table 2: (e): Capital spending on schools in 1996-97 and 2010-11

		£ billion
	1996-97	2010-11
Capital expenditure	0.6	6.3

Notes:

1. Capital expenditure includes supported borrowing that was allocated to local authorities to fund capital investment in schools.
2. Capital expenditure does not include PFI.

Schools: Finance

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much matched funding his Department has provided to schools for phonics products and services since May 2010. [86715]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* From September 2011 to March 2013 we have made available up to £3,000 in match-funding to schools with key stage 1 pupils, so that they can buy approved systematic synthetic phonics products and training. We estimate that around £2.2 million of match-funding has been provided to schools to date for products and training services.

Schools: ICT

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effect of increasing use of computers in the classroom on standards of handwriting in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [84856]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has not made an assessment of the effect of the use of computers in the classroom on standards of handwriting in primary or secondary schools. The current programmes of study for English in primary schools require pupils to be taught handwriting, from forming and joining letters at ages five to seven, then writing legibly in both joined and printed styles, with increasing fluency and speed as they move up through primary school. At secondary level, they should be able to write legibly, and with fluency. The effective use of technology can support good teaching and helps raise standards, including supporting pupils with special educational needs or disabilities.

Schools: Risk Assessment

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to transfer health and safety responsibilities in schools from local authorities to governing bodies. [86632]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education is determined to reduce or amend health and safety law as it applies to schools to enable schools to take a proportionate and common sense approach to school activities.

In this context we are currently considering the options for transferring employer health and safety duties to governing bodies. For all schools where the local authority is currently responsible for health and safety, this would mean that these schools would gain the discretion and freedom already enjoyed by academy trusts, foundation, voluntary-aided and free schools. In practical terms it is the governing body that acts as the school staff's employer, even where in the majority of cases, the formal employment contract is with the local authority.

Schools: Sports

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance he has given to schools regarding the release of PE teachers to organise sport in primary schools; and if he will make a statement. [81697]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 22 November 2011]:* The Department informed schools of the purpose of the funding for PE teacher release on 15 July 2011. The information below was communicated to all eligible schools who were told that funding will be for the two academic years 2011/12 and 2012/13.

"The PE teacher release funding is not ring-fenced. The Department encouraged schools to use the funding to release secondary PE teachers from timetable for one day a week; to provide specialist PE and sport support to local primary schools and within their own school; to embed good practice; and to provide more competitive sport for all pupils, including the School Games.

These PE teachers can:

help schools to create sustainable school sport competition, both within and between schools, involving all pupils;

help schools to involve their staff, parents, local people and young leaders and volunteers to lead competitive sport; and

help schools to engage in sport pupils who are less active or who do not have equal access or opportunity to compete (e.g. pupils with disabilities)".

Schools were advised that they should plan on the basis that funding will end by August 2013. They should seek to embed the work that the released PE teachers do within their school and with local primary schools into their core provision.

Social Justice Committee

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many meetings of the Social Justice Committee Ministers in his Department have attended since its establishment. [85293]

Tim Loughton: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when and how often they meet and which Ministers have attended, is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Special Educational Needs: Academies

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether special educational needs (SEN) funding will change for academies which are within a local authority undertaking a SEN audit. [83993]

Mr Gibb: I refer my hon. Friend to my response given on 5 December 2011, *Official Report*, column 110W.

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether funding for specialist education support services for children with special educational needs in academies will be *(a)* considered a relevant factor in the calculation of local authority central spending equivalent grants and *(b)* recouped from local authorities in 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [86769]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 15 December 2011]:* For 2011-12 the Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), decided that funding for specialist education support services should be included in the calculation of local authority central spending equivalent grant (LACSEG) for academies, but should not be recouped from local authorities. The Secretary of State for Education will confirm arrangements for 2012-13 after the consultation on the Academies Funding Transfer (LACSEG) which ends on 12 January 2012.

Students: Disadvantaged

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of its education funding in targeting disadvantaged students in Pendle constituency since April 2011; and if he will make a statement. [84612]

Mr Gibb: The Government introduced the pupil premium from April 2011 to target extra funding to help schools raise the attainment of pupils from deprived backgrounds and reduce educational inequalities. We are providing £625 million this year and this will rise to £2.5 billion by 2014-15. Pupils eligible for free school meals, including those in Pendle, will benefit from this extra funding.

This is the first year of the premium and it is too early to judge its performance. To monitor progress on attainment, however, new measures will be included in the performance tables that will report the achievement of pupils covered by the pupil premium. From September 2012, we will also require schools to publish online information about how they have used the premium. This will ensure that parents and others are aware of the progress and attainment of pupils covered by the premium.

In addition, Ofsted will be introducing a new inspection framework for schools in January 2012. It will be a requirement for Ofsted to consider how well schools are meeting the needs of all their pupils. This will mean considering the data on all groups and individuals, including attainment, progression, behaviour and attendance, with a particular emphasis on how well attainment gaps are narrowing between the performance of different groups of pupils in the school and compared to pupils nationally.

Teachers: Disciplinary Proceedings

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teachers were struck off for *(a)* incompetence and *(b)* any other reason in each of the last 10 years. [87067]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* From 2001 to the present day, the General Teaching Council for England, which currently administers the regulatory system for teachers, has prohibited a total of 228 teachers—211 teachers have been prohibited for misconduct and 17 for professional incompetence. Figures for each year are set out in the following table in Annex A.

Annex A: Number of teachers prohibited by the GTCE since 2001

		Number
2001/02	Incompetence	1
	Misconduct	1
2002/03	Misconduct	1
2003/04	Misconduct	8
2004/05	Misconduct	5
	Incompetence	1
2005/06	Misconduct	9
	Incompetence	1
2006/07	Misconduct	32
	Incompetence	4
2007/08	Misconduct	27
	incompetence	2
2008/09	Misconduct	23
	Incompetence	2
2009/10	Misconduct	10

Annex A: Number of teachers prohibited by the GTCE since 2001

		Number
	Incompetence	4
2010/11	Misconduct	32
	Incompetence	1
2011/12	Misconduct	63
	Incompetence	1

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teachers went through school competency proceedings in each of the last 10 years. [87068]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* The operation and outcome of competency and capability procedures in schools is a matter for local determination. Accordingly, the information requested about the number of teachers who have been subject to capability proceedings is not held centrally.

Teachers: Pensions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the findings of the National Union of Teachers' technical note, entitled Comparison of payments into and from the Teachers' Pension Scheme. [86733]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 December 2011]:* It is unrealistic to assess the sustainability and affordability of the current Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) based on such historic information. There have been lots of changes within the TPS since the scheme was established; this includes changes to contribution rates and the benefits that the scheme provides. It is much more realistic to look at the current and future position of the scheme's finances.

The TPS, like most public service pension schemes, is an unfunded scheme. This means that current pension contributions, both from employees and employers, are used to help offset the cost of paying pensions to current pensioners. The shortfall between contributions received and pensions paid each year is met by the Exchequer. In 2005/06, expenditure on teachers' pensions was some £5 billion; by 2015/16 it is forecast to exceed £10 billion as a result of increases in life expectancy and growing numbers of teacher pensioners.

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the monetary value was of *(a)* contributions received and *(b)* payments made by the Teachers' Pension Scheme (i) in each of the last 10 years and (ii) since the inception of the scheme; and what estimate he has made of the monetary value of such contributions and payments in each of the next 10 years. [84310]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 December 2011]:* Teachers' pension scheme contributions and expenditure since 1949 are included in the following table. These are extracted from the appropriate published scheme accounts. The Teachers pension scheme has its foundation in the School Teachers' (Superannuation) Act 1918 although the information requested is only available since 1949.

		£ million
Year ending 31 March	*Contributions*	*Total expenditure*
1949	10	7
1950	11	8
1951	11	9
1952	14	9
1953	15	10
1954	15	11
1955	17	11
1956	18	12
1957	24	12
1958	30	14
1959	31	17
1960	35	19
1961	38	21
1962	41	23
1963	47	26
1964	51	31
1965	54	37
1966	63	40
1967	79	47
1968	86	53
1969	91	60
1970	101	64
1971	113	70
1972	126	76
1973	179	86
1974	205	102
1975	245	115
1976	394	147
1977	401	178
1978	427	209
1979	473	246
1980	504	275
1981	639	341
1982	720	451
1983	765	469
1984	802	554
1985	895	638
1986	912	713
1987	1,074	778
1988	1,144	828
1989	1,262	1,030
1990	1,217	1,192
1991	1,317	1,343
1992	1,427	2,175
1993	1,567	2,405
1994	1,608	2,650
1995	1,659	2,717
1996	1,725	2,943
1997	1,788	3,264
1998	1,747	3,644
1999	1,760	3,380
2000	1,869	3,578
2001	2,005	3,702
2002	2,219	3,965
2003	2,526	4,230
2004	3,670	4,473
2005	3,768	4,793
2006	3,900	5,184
2007	4,140	5,548
2008	4,446	6,059
2009	4,613	6,562
2010	4,728	7,098
2011	4,860	7,597

Due to changes in the accounting standards over the period the figures are not directly comparable. Specifically the expenditure and the contributions figures show a marked increase in 1992 and 2004 respectively, due to the impact of how pensions increase was accounted for within the scheme finances. This means that figures prior to these years do not show the full cost of providing the scheme.

Estimates of contribution receipts and expenditure up to 2016-17 were published by the Office for Budget Responsibility on 29 November 2011 as part of the publication "Economic and fiscal outlook supplementary fiscal tables—November 2011". An extract relating to the teachers' pension scheme is included as follows.

		£ billion
	Expenditure	*Receipts*
2011-12	8.1	4.9
2012-13	8.9	5.0
2013-14	9.5	5.1
2014-15	10.0	5.2
2015-16	10.6	5.4
2016-17	11.2	5.5

Teachers: Qualifications

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teaching staff completed the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) in the 2010-11 school year by *(a)* phase of the school where they were working and *(b)* Government office region; and how many headships were advertised by schools requiring the NPQH qualification by (i) phase of school and (ii) government office region in each month of 2011 to date. [85434]

Mr Gibb: The National Professional Qualification for Headship, (NPQH), is administered by the National College for School Leadership. Steve Munby, the chief executive, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of his response has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Steve Munby, dated 8 December 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ085434:

"To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many teaching staff completed the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) in the 2010-11 school year by (a) phase of the school where they were working and (b) government office region; and how many headships were advertised by schools requiring the NPQH qualification by (i) phase of school and (ii) government office region in each month of 2011 to date."

I confirm that the National College holds the details of the numbers of teaching staff who have completed the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) in the 2010-11 school year by (a) phase of the school where they were working and (b) government office region and these are shown in the following table.

The National College does not hold information in respect of the number of headships advertised by schools requiring the NPQH qualification.

Region	*Phase*	*Total*
East Midlands	EY Setting	1
	Middle Deemed Secondary	1
	Not applicable	15
	Primary	88
	Secondary	23
East of England	EY Setting	1
	Middle Deemed Primary	1
	Middle Deemed Secondary	11
	Not applicable	24
	Nursery	3
	Primary	123
	Secondary	32
London	16 Plus	1
	Not applicable	27
	Nursery	1
	Primary	114
	Secondary	41
North East	Not applicable	10
	Nursery	1
	Primary	45
	Secondary	13
North West	16 Plus	1
	Middle Deemed Secondary	2
	Not applicable	40
	Nursery	4
	Primary	123
	Secondary	30
Not Applicable	Not applicable	12
South East	16 Plus	1
	Middle Deemed Primary	1
	Middle Deemed Secondary	1
	Not applicable	40
	Nursery	3
	Primary	147
	Secondary	35
South West	EY Setting	1
	Middle Deemed Primary	1
	Not applicable	17
	Primary	108
	Secondary	18
West Midlands	Middle Deemed Secondary	1
	Not applicable	24
	Nursery	5
	Primary	105
	Secondary	22

Region	Phase	Total
Yorkshire and The Humber	EY Setting	1
	Not applicable	17
	Primary	113
	Secondary	27
Grand total		1,476

Notes:
1. Not applicable in Region denotes overseas participants.
2. Not applicable in Phase denotes either a role that is not phase specific (LA adviser) or overseas participant.

Teachers: Training

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* science, *(c)* biology, *(d)* chemistry and *(e)* physics teachers who achieved Qualified Teacher Status in the last year hold a (i) first class, (ii) 2.1, (iii) 2.2 and (iv) third class degree in (A) any subject and (B) mathematics. [86259]

Mr Gibb: The latest available information on degree classification in (A) any subject and (B) mathematics held by *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* science, *(c)* biology, *(d)* chemistry and *(e)* physics teachers who have achieved Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) can be found in tables A and B respectively.

Fewer than 1% of science and physics teachers who achieved QTS in 2009/10 held a degree in mathematics. The number of teachers in each of these groups is therefore too small to be broken down by degree classification. There were no biology or chemistry teachers who achieved QTS in 2009/10 and held a degree in mathematics.

Table A: Classification of first degree held by mathematics, science, biology, chemistry and physics teachers achieving QTS status in 2009/10

	Classification of First Degree held in any subject					
Subject of teaching qualification	1st (%)	2:1 (%)	2:2 (%)	3rd (%)	Other/not known (%)	Total (provisional)
Mathematics	13	35	28	7	17	2,640
Science	10	40	29	6	15	1,010
Biology	10	49	29	3	8	1,130
Chemistry	14	39	28	8	11	760
Physics	13	32	32	8	15	480

Notes:
1. Percentages rounded to the nearest 1% and total rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
3. Figures for 2009/10 total are provisional and subject to change prior to future publication.
4. Includes both undergraduate and postgraduate courses through mainstream and employment-based routes.
5. Science includes Combined/General Sciences, Biology includes Applied Biology, Chemistry includes Applied Chemistry, Physics includes Applied Physics.

Source:
TDA Performance Profiles

Table B: Classification of first degree held by mathematics teachers achieving QTS status through a postgraduate route in 2009/10 where the first degree is mathematics

	Classification of First Degree held in mathematics						
Subject of teaching qualification	1st (%)	2:1 (%)	2:2 (%)	3rd (%)	Other/not known (%)	Other degree held	Total (provisional)
Mathematics	7	13	11	4	5	59	2,490

Notes:
1. Percentages rounded to the nearest 1% and total rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
3. Figures for 2009/10 total are provisional and subject to change prior to future publication.
4. Includes postgraduate courses through mainstream and employment-based routes. A small number of teachers who qualified through an undergraduate course are excluded.

Source:
TDA Performance Profiles

Teenage Pregnancy

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the number of girls in schools whose education has been interrupted by pregnancy in each of the last five years. [85505]

Sarah Teather: We do not hold data centrally on girls in schools whose education has been interrupted by pregnancy. However, guidance to schools and local authorities makes it clear that support should be directed to keeping pregnant pupils in school whenever possible and to return to full-time education as soon as possible after the birth. The Equality Act 2010 supports this policy. Under the Act it is unlawful for schools to treat pupils less favourably because of their pregnancy or maternity.

England has declining teenage pregnancy rates; under-18 conceptions have fallen by 18.1% to the lowest rate in almost 30 years. I have provided data in the following tables on conceptions to under-16 and under-18 year olds from 2005 to 2009 and conceptions by single year age(s) from 2005-09.

DFE and the Office for National Statistics are currently engaged in a project to link teenage conception records to the National Pupil Database which contains information on pupils' demographic characteristics, school attendance and educational attainment. Analysis of this linked dataset should give us a better understanding of the

demographic and education profiles of teenagers who conceive and then go on either to give birth or have abortions. This will help to inform further work to reduce teenage pregnancy and improve sexual health.

Table 1: Under-18 conceptions for England: 2005-09

		Rate per 1,000 females aged 15-17	
	Number of conceptions	Conceptions (includes abortions and maternities)	Conceptions leading to maternity
2005	39,804	41.3	22.0
2006	39,170	40.6	20.8
2007	40,366	41.8	20.6
2008	38,750	40.5	20.4
2009	35,966	38.2	19.4

Source:
Office for National Statistics and DFE, 2011

Table 2: Under-16 conceptions for England: 2005-09

		Rate per 1,000 females aged 13-15	
	Number of conceptions	Conceptions (includes abortions and maternities)	Conceptions leading to maternity
2005	7,473	7.8	3.3
2006	7,330	7.7	3.1
2007	7,718	8.3	3.2
2008	7,123	7.8	3.0
2009	6,774	7.5	3.0

Source:
Office for National Statistics and DFE, 2011

Data on number of conceptions and conception rates by single year age are available for England and Wales.

Table 3: Conceptions by single year age for England and Wales, 2005-09

			Conception rate per 1,000 girls	
		Number of conceptions	Conceptions (includes abortions and maternities)	Conceptions leading to maternity
Under 14[1]	2005	327	1.0	0.4
	2006	295	0.9	0.3
	2007	369	1.1	0.4
	2008	325	1.0	0.3
	2009	316	1.0	0.4
Age 14	2005	1,830	5.4	1.9
	2006	1,764	5.2	1.8
	2007	1,903	5.8	2.0
	2008	1,710	5.3	1.7
	2009	1,697	5.4	1.9
Age 15	2005	5,773	17.1	7.7
	2006	5,767	16.8	7.1
	2007	5,928	17.5	7.0
	2008	5,551	16.9	6.9
	2009	5,145	15.9	6.6
Age 16	2005	13,335	39.4	21.1
	2006	13,107	38.6	19.8
	2007	13,573	39.4	19.5
	2008	12,998	38.1	19.1
	2009	11,896	36.0	18.1
Age 17	2005	21,060	61.1	35.3
	2006	20,835	61.3	34.3
	2007	21,215	62.1	34.0
	2008	20,777	59.9	33.1
	2009	19,205	55.9	31.2

[1] Rate per 1,000 girls aged 13
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 15 December 2011

DEFENCE

Navy

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Order of Battle is of the fleet. [71100]

[Official Report, 15 September 2011, Vol. 532, c. 1300-01W.]

Letter of correction from Peter Luff:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Mid Sussex (Nicholas Soames) on 15 September 2011. The original answer included an error which failed to take account of the recent decommissioning of a Type 42 Destroyer on 30 June 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Peter Luff: As at 7 September 2011, the Order of Battle for the fleet was as follows:

	Number
Landing Platform Helicopter	[1]2
Landing Platform Dock	2
T45	3
T42	4
T23	13
Hunt Class MCV	8
Sandown Class MCV	7
River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels	3
Helicopter Offshore Patrol Vessels	1
P2000 Patrol Boats	18
Ocean Survey Vessels	1
Coastal Survey Vessels	3
Antarctic Patrol Ship	1
Ships Submersible Ballistic Nuclear	4
Ship Submersible Nuclear	7
Assault Helicopters—Sea King Mk4	3 Sqns
Search and Rescue—Sea King Mk5	2 Sqns
Airbourne Surveillance and Control—Sea King Mk7	3 Sqns
Anti Submarine and Anti Surface:	
Merlin Mk1 Lynx	4 Sqns
Mk3 and Mk8	3 Sqns
Battlefield Helicopters—Lynx Mk9	1 Sqn
Elementary Flying	3 Sqns
Beechcraft King Air 350ER Avenger	1 Sqn

[1] HMS Illustrious is now operating in the Landing Platform Helicopter role, as well as HMS Ocean.

For the Royal Fleet Auxiliary:

	Number
Fleet Tankers	2
Support Tankers	1
Small Fleet Tankers	2
Fleet Replenishment Ships	3
Landing Ship Dock	3
Aviation Training Ship	1
Forward Repair Ship	1

The correct answer should have been:

Peter Luff: As at 7 September 2011, the Order of Battle for the fleet was as follows:

	Number
Landing Platform Helicopter	[1]2
Landing Platform Dock	2
T45	3
T42	3
T23	13
Hunt Class MCV	8
Sandown Class MCV	7
River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels	3
Helicopter Offshore Patrol Vessels	1
P2000 Patrol Boats	18
Ocean Survey Vessels	1
Coastal Survey Vessels	3
Antarctic Patrol Ship	1
Ships Submersible Ballistic Nuclear	4
Ship Submersible Nuclear	7
Assault Helicopters—Sea King Mk4	3 Sqns
Search and Rescue—Sea King Mk5	2 Sqns
Airbourne Surveillance and Control—Sea King Mk7	3 Sqns
Anti Submarine and Anti Surface:	
Merlin Mk1 Lynx	4 Sqns
Mk3 and Mk8	3 Sqns
Battlefield Helicopters—Lynx Mk9	1 Sqn
Elementary Flying	3 Sqns
Beechcraft King Air 350ER Avenger	1 Sqn

[1] HMS Illustrious is now operating in the Landing Platform Helicopter role, as well as HMS Ocean.

For the Royal Fleet Auxiliary:

	Number
Fleet Tankers	2
Support Tankers	1
Small Fleet Tankers	2
Fleet Replenishment Ships	3
Landing Ship Dock	3
Aviation Training Ship	1
Forward Repair Ship	1

Warships

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many warships are available for active service in the Navy. [78010]

[Official Report, 2 November 2011, Vol. 534, c. 660W.]

Letter of correction from Peter Luff:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr Redwood) on 2 November 2011. The original answer included an error which failed to take account of the recent decommissioning of a Type 42 Destroyer on 30 June 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Peter Luff: Details of the number of Royal Navy warships available, in various states of readiness, for active service are provided in the following table:

	Number
Landing Platform Helicopter	[1]2
Landing Platform Dock	2
Type 45 Destroyer	3
Type 42 Destroyer	4
Type 23 Frigate	13
Hunt Class Mine Counter Measures Vessel	8
Sandown Class Mine Counter Measures Vessel	7
River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels	3
River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels (Helicopter)	1
P2000 Patrol Boats	18
Ocean Survey Vessels	1
Coastal Survey Vessels	3
Ice Patrol Ship	1
Ships Submersible Ballistic Nuclear	4
Ship Submersible Nuclear	7

[1] HMS Illustrious is now operating in the Landing Platform Helicopter role, as well as HMS Ocean.

The correct answer should have been:

Peter Luff: Details of the number of Royal Navy warships available, in various states of readiness, for active service are provided in the following table:

	Number
Landing Platform Helicopter	[1]2
Landing Platform Dock	2
Type 45 Destroyer	3
Type 42 Destroyer	3
Type 23 Frigate	13
Hunt Class Mine Counter Measures Vessel	8
Sandown Class Mine Counter Measures Vessel	7
River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels	3
River Class Offshore Patrol Vessels (Helicopter)	1
P2000 Patrol Boats	18
Ocean Survey Vessels	1
Coastal Survey Vessels	3
Ice Patrol Ship	1
Ships Submersible Ballistic Nuclear	4
Ship Submersible Nuclear	7

[1] HMS Illustrious is now operating in the Landing Platform Helicopter role, as well as HMS Ocean.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which flag or flags are routinely displayed outside each of his Department's overseas *(a)* posts and *(b)* residences. [84588]

[Official Report, 7 December 2011, Vol. 537, c. 307-8W.]

Letter of correction from Henry Bellingham:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 7 December 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Bellingham: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The general rule is that the relevant flag—as follows—should be flown at post on all working days during office hours, depending on which country the posts are located in and the type:

Diplomatic flag—this is the Union flag with the Royal Arms in the centre surrounded by a green garland.

Consular flag—this is the Union flag with the St Edward's Crown in the centre on a white disc . It is only flown at consular posts in foreign countries.

Union flag—this is flown in Commonwealth countries.

European flag—the display of the European flag is a courtesy rather than a requirement. On Europe day (9 May), posts in EU and EU-applicant countries should display the European flag. Other posts may also display the flag on Europe day where this is normal local practice. UKREP Brussels displays the European flag at all times. All posts may display the flag at other times where this is normal local practice.

In all cases, the European flag is displayed alongside, not instead of, the British Diplomatic, Consular or in Commonwealth countries the Union flag, with the British flag having precedence.

Overseas Territories—The personal flag of an Officer Administering the Government (OAG) in an Overseas Territory is the Union flag, superimposed in the centre with the approved arms or badge of the Territory on a white disc surrounded by a green garland. It is flown from sunrise to sunset at Government House when the OAG is in residence: if he/she is not, the flag is flown wherever he/she is in the Territory.

The Union flag is flown from sunrise to sunset at Government House when the OAG is not in residence. It is also flown there if he/she has placed the residence entirely at the disposal of an important visitor, e.g. a member of the royal family.

UK national flags—three of the four constituent countries of the United Kingdom have their own national flags: the St Andrew's, St David's, and St George's flags. (Northern Ireland is currently without a national flag, pending a new design.) These flags may be flown on the appropriate national day. Posts also have discretion to fly them when special circumstances/events dictate, e.g. the visit of a Minister from a devolved Administration.

London 2012—The International Olympic Committee and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games gave permission for posts overseas to fly the London 2012 host country flag on key dates in 2012 and for the duration of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has supported. The dates in question are as follows:

9 January 2012: 200 days to go—Olympics

11 February 2012: 200 days to go—Paralympics

18 April 2012: 100 days to go—Olympics

10 May 2012: Lighting of the Olympic flame

17 May 2012: Handover of the Olympic flame

18 May 2012: Arrival in the UK of the Olympic flame

21 May 2012: 100 days to go—Paralympics

27 July to 12 August 2012 inclusive: Olympic Games

29 August to 9 September 2012 inclusive: Paralympic Games.

Posts are only permitted to fly the 2012 flag on those agreed dates above, but can display it in their reception areas at other times. Again the British Diplomatic, Consular or the Union flag, will take precedence.

(b) The general rule for flying the relevant flags listed above at Residencies is that they should be flown on the following British anniversaries, during the visit of one of Her Majesty's ships or on days of local celebration or mourning.

British Anniversaries:

20 January: birthday of HRH the Countess of Wessex

6 February: Her Majesty's Accession

19 February: birthday of HRH the Duke of York

1 March: St David's day

10 March: birthday of HRH the Earl of Wessex

17 March: St Patrick's day

March (second Monday): Commonwealth day

21 April: birthday of Her Majesty

23 April: St George's day

9 May: Europe day[1]

2 June: Coronation day

10 June: birthday of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh

June (second Saturday): official celebration of Her Majesty's birthday

17 July: birthday of HRH the Duchess of Cornwall

15 August: birthday of HRH the Princess Royal

November (second Sunday):Remembrance day

14 November: birthday of HRH the Prince of Wales

20 November: Her Majesty's wedding anniversary

30 November: St Andrew's day.

[1] The Union flag should fly alongside the European flag. On Government buildings that only have one flagpole, the Union flag should take precedence.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Bellingham: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The general rule is that the relevant flag—as follows—should be flown at post on all working days during office hours, depending on which country the posts are located in and the type:

Diplomatic flag—this is the Union flag with the Royal Arms in the centre surrounded by a green garland.

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In all cases, the European flag is displayed alongside, not instead of, the British Diplomatic, Consular or in Commonwealth countries the Union flag, with the British flag having precedence.

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The Union flag is flown from sunrise to sunset at Government House when the OAG is not in residence. It is also flown there if he/she has placed the residence entirely at the disposal of an important visitor, e.g. a member of the royal family.

UK national flags—three of the four constituent countries of the United Kingdom have their own national flags: the St Andrew's, **Y Ddraig Goch "The Red Dragon"**, and **St George's Cross** flags. (Northern Ireland is currently without a national flag, pending a new design.) These flags may be flown on the appropriate national day. Posts also have discretion to fly them when special circumstances/ events dictate, e.g. the visit of a Minister from a devolved Administration.

London 2012—The International Olympic Committee and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games gave permission for posts overseas to fly the London 2012 host country flag on key dates in 2012 and for the duration of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), has supported. The dates in question are as follows:

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18 April 2012: 100 days to go—Olympics

10 May 2012: Lighting of the Olympic flame

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18 May 2012: Arrival in the UK of the Olympic flame

21 May 2012: 100 days to go—Paralympics

27 July to 12 August 2012 inclusive: Olympic Games

29 August to 9 September 2012 inclusive: Paralympic Games.

Posts are only permitted to fly the 2012 flag on those agreed dates above, but can display it in their reception areas at other times. Again the British Diplomatic, Consular or the Union flag, will take precedence.

(b) The general rule for flying the relevant flags listed above at Residencies is that they should be flown on the following British anniversaries, during the visit of one of Her Majesty's ships or on days of local celebration or mourning.

British Anniversaries:

20 January: birthday of HRH the Countess of Wessex

6 February: Her Majesty's Accession

19 February: birthday of HRH the Duke of York

1 March: St David's day

10 March: birthday of HRH the Earl of Wessex

17 March: St Patrick's day

March (second Monday): Commonwealth day

21 April: birthday of Her Majesty

23 April: St George's day

9 May: Europe day[1]

2 June: Coronation day

10 June: birthday of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh

June (second Saturday): official celebration of Her Majesty's birthday

17 July: birthday of HRH the Duchess of Cornwall

15 August: birthday of HRH the Princess Royal

November (second Sunday):Remembrance day

14 November: birthday of HRH the Prince of Wales

20 November: Her Majesty's wedding anniversary

30 November: St Andrew's day.

[1] The Union flag should fly alongside the European flag. On Government buildings that only have one flagpole, the Union flag should take precedence.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 20 December 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Government Procurement Card

Chris Kelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Government Procurement Card transactions were made by his Department's officials withdrawing cash from automated teller machines from 2006-07 to 2009-10; at what cost; and on what dates. [67432]

[Official Report, 7 September 2011, Vol. 532, c. 647-8W.]

Letter of correction from Robert Neill:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Dudley South (Chris Kelly) on 7 September 2011. The duplicated amount on 8 September 2006 of £351.42 should have been '-£351.42', where the money was immediately reimbursed.

The full answer given was as follows:

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The following cash withdrawals have been made by departmental officials from April 2006 to March 2010:

	Amount (£)
24 April 2006	235.10
1 June 2006	611.03
8 September 2006	88.93
8 September 2006	351.42
8 September 2006	351.42
8 September 2006	402.64
18 October 2006	861.21
7 November 2006	73.12
27 November 2006	527.82
1 December 2006	205.52
5 December 2006	36.76
5 December 2006	477.94
10 January 2007	348.34
28 June 2007	500.00
2 July 2007	500.00
3 July 2007	200.00
4 November 2008	190.68
9 December 2008	49.64

Currently the Department pays a 2.95% fee on cash advances (minimum charge of £2.95). For foreign exchange transactions we pay a 2.95% fee (minimum charge of £2.95 plus a further currency exchange purchase fee of 2.95%).

The new administration has reviewed its policy on Government Procurement Card usage. As well as reducing the number of cards held, the Department has cancelled the cash withdrawal facility for all but two Government Procurement Card holders (for business continuity reasons).

The correct answer should have been:

Robert Neill *[holding answer 19 July 2011]:* The following cash withdrawals have been made by departmental officials from April 2006 to March 2010:

	Amount (£)
24 April 2006	235.10
1 June 2006	611.03
8 September 2006	88.93
8 September 2006	351.42
8 September 2006	**-351.42**
8 September 2006	402.64
18 October 2006	861.21
7 November 2006	73.12
27 November 2006	527.82
1 December 2006	205.52
5 December 2006	36.76
5 December 2006	477.94
10 January 2007	348.34
28 June 2007	500.00
2 July 2007	500.00
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HOME DEPARTMENT

Sport and Youth Crime

The following is an extract from the closing speech given by the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice, the right hon. Member for Arundel and South Downs (Nick Herbert) to the hon. Member for Folkestone and Hythe (Damian Collins) during the Westminster Hall Adjournment Debate on Sport and Youth Crime on 6 December 2011.

Damian Collins: In the United States there is a programme called Badges for Baseball—all these programmes have snappy names—in which the police organise baseball and softball league games directly with young people. Does the Minister feel that there may be additional scope for police to be directly involved with such programmes in the UK?

Nick Herbert: The Positive Futures programme will continue until the end of 2013; thereafter, elected police and crime commissioners will have a budget that they can distribute for similar programmes, should they so choose.

[Official Report, 6 December 2011, Vol. 537, c. 24-5WH.]

Letter of correction from Nick Herbert:

An error has been identified in the response given to the hon. Member for Folkestone and Hythe (Damian Collins).

The correct response should have been:

Nick Herbert: The Positive Futures programme will continue until **the end of March 2013**; thereafter, elected police and crime commissioners will have a budget that they can distribute for similar programmes, should they so choose.

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